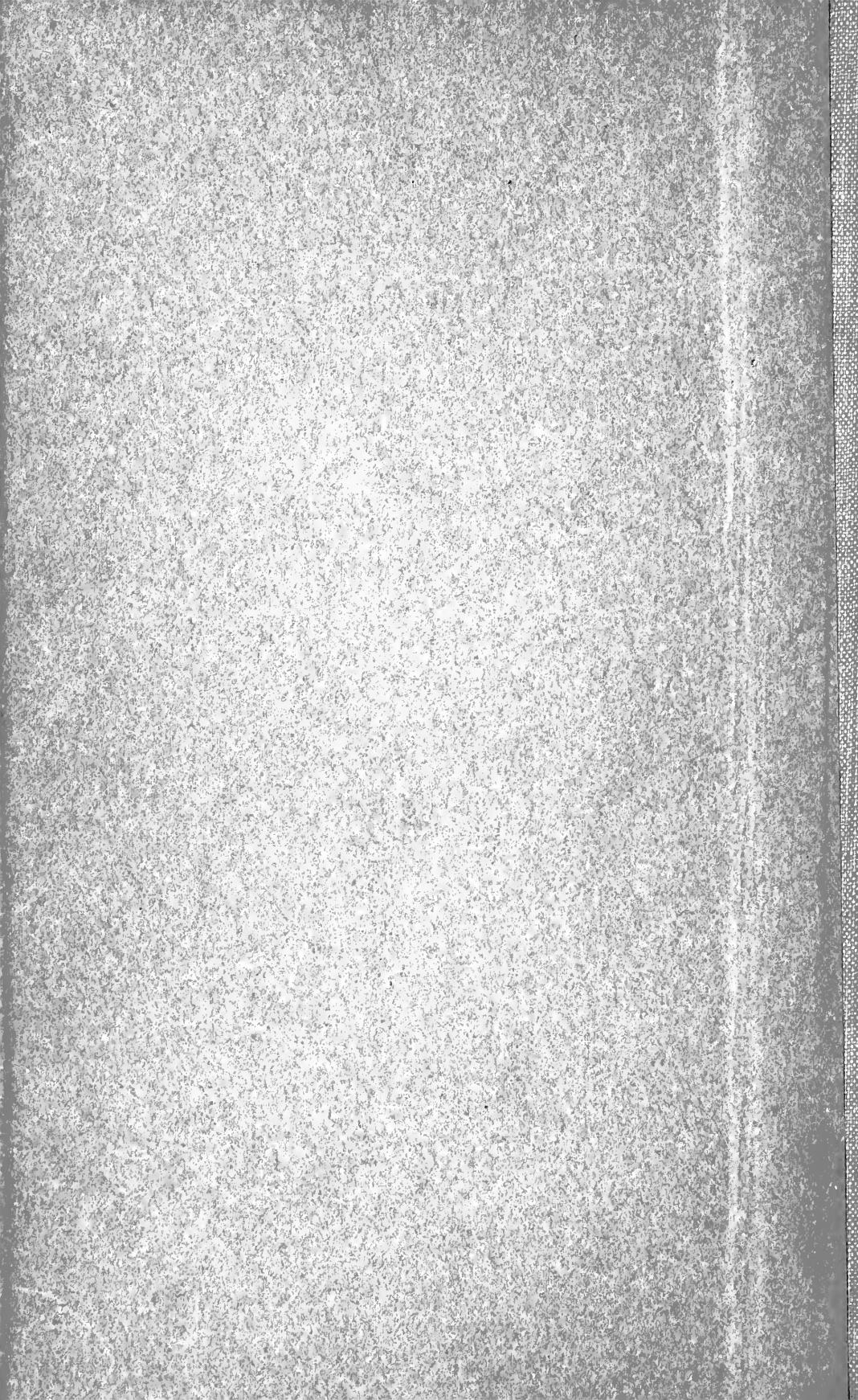


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AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

AT ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1844;

BY

JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD, ESQ.,

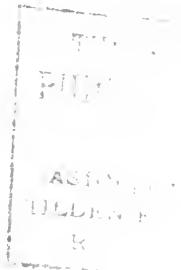
HISTORICAL AGENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, TO HOLLAND,

ENGLAND, AND FRANCE.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS AT THE DINNER GIVEN IN THE EVENING.

NEW YORK:
PRESS OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1844.



At a stated meeting of the NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, held on Tuesday Evening, the Third of December, 1844, at the Historical Rooms, in the University, the First Vice President in the Chair. It was unanimously

Resolved, That the thanks of the New York Historical Society, are hereby tendered to J. ROMEYN BRODHEAD, Esquire, for the interesting and instructive Address delivered before this Society at its recent Anniversary celebration; an Address which furnished abundant evidence of the zeal, ability, and intelligence, with which the duties of his late mission had been discharged.

Resolved, That Mr. BRODHEAD be requested to furnish a copy of his Address, to be placed among the Archives of the Society, and published.

A true Extract from the Minutes.

ATTEST.

JOHN JAY,

Recording Secretary.

*Dated at the Historical Rooms,
University of the City of New York, }
December 6, 1844,* }

A N A D D R E S S.

GENTLEMEN OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY:—

I WILL not affect to conceal the emotions of pride, and of humility, with which your invitation has filled me. To be asked to fall in the file of illustrious men who have, from time to time, addressed this body, is a compliment of no common order. To dare the venturesome attempt—to essay to take a place in that brilliant array—may seem to be rash, if not presumptuous. Yet, the peculiarity of the circumstances which must, alone, have induced your unexpected invitation, seems almost to have modified it into a command; and though, had the personal feelings of him who has the high honor now to address you, prevailed, some worthier associate would have occupied the time of his fellow-members on this occasion, the duty you have imposed is too peremptory to be declined, while its execution is attempted with the most unfeigned diffidence.

It has been suggested that some reference to the recent investigations of the Historical Agent of this State, in European Archives, may not be inappropriate to the present occasion.

Although a detailed account of the Agent's proceedings in the execution of his duties, will form the legitimate subject of an official Report to the State Government, the Agency, itself, being, as it were, the child of this Society, it is supposed that a few particulars respecting the Foreign Record Offices that have been visited, and some references to the documents that have been gleaned from them, relating

to periods and events hitherto unknown, or but imperfectly known to the Historians of our State, may be interesting to the members of this Society.

What I propose, therefore, in the altogether practical remarks I have now the honor to address to you, is, to take a rapid glance at the archives of Holland, England, and France, to which the Agent had access; and to refer, briefly, to some of the more interesting of the Documents transcribed. In doing this, I shall follow, as nearly as may be, a chronological order; and simply state facts, without attempting to weave a connected narrative.

It is known to some, at least, now present, that the inspection of the State Papers of Foreign Governments is a privilege of a high order; and granted in many cases, only, upon applications backed by high, personal, or official influence. A feeling of liberal and expanded courtesy may often prompt a compliance with the applications of foreigners, supported by the zealous and active exertions of their national representative, when the request of a subject or citizen, merely, would perhaps be disregarded. In every case, the permission to examine the Archives of a Foreign Government, is a favor granted—not a right enjoyed.

It was fortunate for the interests of the State, and of this Society, that our country was represented by such men as Harmanus Bleecker, at the Hague, Edward Everett, at London, and Lewis Cass, at Paris, when the Agent presented himself, to ask the privilege of an inspection of the State Papers in those Capitals. And it would be inexcusable, if this opportunity were not taken to declare my conviction, that, to the warm interest displayed, on every occasion, by these eminent gentlemen, in the objects of the agency, and to their zealous and well directed efforts in its behalf, is to be attributed,—more than to any other cause,—whatever of success may have attended the enterprise of the State.

The application made to the Government of the “Fatherland” received a ready, and most favorable consideration. A prompt order, directed by the King, himself, to be as

liberal in its provisions as the exigencies of the service would allow, was issued by the Minister of the Interior ; and the Agent, on presenting himself at the Royal Archives at the Hague, was received by the officer in charge, with a courtesy and interest that left him nothing further to desire. Every document, book, and paper, known or supposed to contain information relative to our Colonial days, was thrown open to his inspection ; and every arrangement was made, and every facility afforded, that a generous and liberal policy could dictate.

Thus then—in the very seat of government of the land of our forefathers—in the very Palace of the Stadt-holder—was the attempt commenced, to rescue from obscurity the papers which, it was supposed, would fill up the gaps in our early annals, and throw light upon the events of our Colonial days. The Palace of the Binnenhof—itself so rich in Historical association—is well chosen as the depository of the immense collection of Documents which regard the annals of Holland and her dependencies, not only, but in which are also to be found most authentic materials for the History of Europe. These papers are contained in an immense suit of apartments—overlooking the quadrangle which witnessed the execution of Barneveld—connected, one with another, by many a stair and winding passage, and opening into many a long gallery and corridor. Many a memorial of ancient days, yet remains in the old apartments, to attest the former splendor of the Palace ; and many a painted and gilded ceiling yet arrests the eye, and contrasts, strangely, with the parchment-bound volumes, and dusty files, and worm-eaten cases, that occupy the places of the Courtiers and the Nobles of the days of old.

The documents in this repository are, in general, very well arranged. The greater part are preserved in volumes bound in parchment, in a style of durability and neatness characteristic of our Dutch ancestors. They consist, chiefly of minutes of the proceedings of the States General at their ordinary and secret meetings—diplomatic and other correspondence, and commissions and instructions to officers, &c.

The original papers received by the States General, from time to time, are arranged in files, or deposited in bundles in various separate cases and repositories, and have suffered from the effects of time and exposure to dust, much more than the bound volumes. It was in these files and bundles, that many of the original papers received from "New Netherland" were found ; and the reason why, in some instances, Records of presumed importance to the illustration of our Colonial History, appear to be missing, may, perhaps, be found in a Resolution of the States General of 29th November, 1622, that the Documents in their possession, relating to the West India Company, be delivered to the Directors of that Corporation.

The Agent was occupied, during several months, in a laborious investigation, in the course of which, upwards of Four Hundred Volumes and bundles of papers, many of them, old, decayed, and worm-eaten, were examined ; and the difficulty of the research was by no means lightened by the circumstance that most of the Documents which were read, were written in the perverse and obscure characters common in the 17th Century.

The results of the examinations at the Hague, however, satisfied the Agent, that though a great and valuable mass of information, on points either entirely novel, or at best, very imperfectly known in the annals of our State, was there contained ; the Archives of the West India Company, which had the supervision and direction of the Colony of New Netherland, was the grand magazine in which he might hope to find those more particular details of voyages, discoveries, emigrations, settlements, and personal narratives, which would be of the highest interest to the descendants of the early colonists, as well as to the Historian of our State.

This indeed, was anticipated before the investigations in the Royal Archives were commenced : and with this view, an order was obtained from the Minister of the Colonies, directing the keeper of the old East and West India Company's papers at Amsterdam, to afford the Agent every assistance,

in the examination of the Documents in his custody. But the surprise, mortification, and regret that were experienced, when he was told, on application at the West India House, *that all the books, documents, and papers, of every kind, belonging to the old West India Company, of a date anterior to the year 1700, had been publicly sold, in the year 1821, by order of the Government,* can be more easily conceived than expressed. The truth however, unwelcome as it was, became confirmed after a thorough examination of the remaining papers ; and the Agent became satisfied that nothing whatever, affecting the early History of our State, (with an exception which will presently be noticed,) now remains in the Archives of the West India Company at Amsterdam.*

It was subsequently ascertained that a portion of the papers thus sold, was in the possession of the original purchaser. Permission was obtained from him to make an examination of this portion ; which was effected. Nothing however, relating to our early History was found ; the Documents remaining in the possession of the purchaser, being, chiefly, mercantile entry books of the East India Company. The mortifying conviction is now forced upon us, that the valuable papers of the West India Company relating to New Netherland, (and if what was heard of them at Amsterdam be true, they were *very* valuable,) which until the year 1821, were easily attainable by our State, are now irrecoverably lost ! Scattered and dissipated through Holland and Germany—used as wrapping paper by shopkeepers and tradesmen, or ground up in paper mills—the destruction of these priceless old memorials has left a chasm in the original materials for the illustration of our history, which we look, in vain, to any other source fully to supply.

The City of Amsterdam, having in 1656, purchased land in New Netherland from the West India Company, and

* 80,000 pounds weight of these papers are said to have been sold by public auction, to the highest bidder. It is understood they were purchased by the pound weight, for a very small sum.

undertaken to manage a colony there, examinations were made in the Records of the City Government, for Documents relating to this subject. Every possible courtesy was shown by the authorities of the city, and quite a number of interesting papers were found and copied.

The result of the investigations in the archives in the Netherlands, is the procurement of sixteen large volumes of Transcripts, which are now in the Secretary of State's office at Albany.*

In England, the chief repository in which the Documents relating to the American Colonies are contained, is the Queen's State Paper Office. The Board of Trade, it is well known, had for many years, the general supervision of the American Plantations; and their Records, which were formerly in the custody of the officers of the Board, in Whitehall, are of exceeding interest. These Records, (amounting to upwards of 2000 volumes,) were lately removed, by order of Government, to the State Paper Office, where they are hereafter to remain.

The regulations of this office, however, are very precise and formal. It is, in reality, a part of the Sovereign's own Private Library—an appendage to the Secretary of State's Office. Before any person is allowed access to the office, for the purpose of consulting Documents, an order must be obtained from the Secretary of State, directed to the keeper,

* While Mr. Brodhead was at Amsterdam, he had an interview with the Classis of Amsterdam, (under whose care and direction the Dutch Churches in America remained until 1771,) and readily procured access to the archives of that reverend body. A large amount of valuable Historical materials was found, consisting of Original Letters received from the Dutch Clergy in New Netherland and New York, from 1648 to 1785; and records of the correspondence of the Committee of Classis, with these ministers. The Classis of Amsterdam, at his request, loaned the original letters, &c., to the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church; and allowed him to have copies made for the Synod, of the Correspondence of the Committee. The letters, and the copies of the committee's correspondence, are now in the Archives of the General Synod; and it is hoped that proper measures will be taken to obtain the permanent possession of these very curious and valuable original Documents.

and stating the extent of the privileges to be enjoyed by the visitor. The enlightened statesmanship, and liberal disposition of the present noble Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, (Lord Aberdeen,) induced a much more favorable consideration of the application of the Agent, than had been extended by his predecessor; and an order was granted, to permit the inspection of the volumes in the State Paper Office, relative to the Province of New York. This order was, however, very precise in its terms; and was interpreted by the keeper of the State Papers, with the most rigid and embarrassing strictness. The several Documents selected for transcription by the Agent, were re-examined by an officer under the direction of the Secretary of State; and none were permitted to be transcribed, until they had received the allowance of this officer. Several hundred volumes were thus examined, and a very large mass of papers copied.

Researches were also made in the Library of the British Museum; in the Office of the Privy Council;* and in the Library of the Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth. The utmost courtesy was exhibited by the gentlemen in charge of these repositories; and every attention was shown that could have been desired.

The result of the Agent's researches in England, is a mass of papers, filling forty seven volumes; comprising the official correspondence of the Governors of New York from its surrender by the Dutch, in 1664, to the end of the Revolution—as well as various Documents of high interest received from private hands. There are, also, several very important papers relating to the period between 1614 and 1664. It may be gratifying to many to know, that copies have been made of all Sir William Johnson's official letters to the British Government, which remain in the office; and that though the Agent was unable to find any trace of the

* There are no separate papers in the Privy Council Office, of an earlier date than 1700. The Registers, however, are perfect from the time of Queen Elizabeth.

original Books of Records of the Indian Commissioners, which are supposed to have been removed from this State during the Revolutionary War, the greater part of these proceedings, as transcribed and sent to London, from time to time, have been recovered and secured. And, without venturing to affirm, that every thing of importance to the illustration of the History of this State, in the British Archives, has been obtained, the belief is confidently expressed that, at any rate, the greatest and most valuable portion of these materials is now in our possession.

The influence that France for so many years exercised over the Indian tribes on our borders, and within our very territory itself, was too important, to allow the opportunity of examining her Records to pass unimproved. Canada, and Canadian affairs, must always occupy a prominent place in any history of this State ; and applications were accordingly made to the proper departments of the French Government, for permission to investigate the Documents relating to that Colony, in their Archives. It need scarcely be said, that these applications were received, and acceded to, in the spirit of broad and liberal courtesy, for which the French Government has become almost proverbial. The Historical riches which were found in the archives at Paris, are only equalled by the prompt and generous liberality with which His Majesty's Government threw them open to the researches of the Agent.

The general management of Canadian affairs, was, for a long time, entrusted to the department of the Marine ; to whose head was also confided the Portfolio of the Colonies. It was not until about the year 1754, when the troubles in America began to grow serious, that the Department of War appears to have had particular communication with the French Agents in America ; at any rate, nothing of any consequence, in this respect, was discovered in its Records before that period.

The Archives of the Department of the Marine and Colonies, are very rich in documents relating to the history of the French dependencies in this continent. Here are to

be found the instructions of the French Government to its Agents in America ; letters and despatches from the King and his Ministers, and original papers from the Colonial authorities to the Government at home ; correspondence with the neighboring English Colonies ; reports of interviews with the Indians on their borders ; plans of campaigns ; details of battles and skirmishes ; in short, the official and cotemporaneous documents, which form, (with those in the Department of War,) materials for the illustration of one of the most interesting and romantic portions of the History of North America.

Owing, however, to various causes, (prominent among which may be named the wild and ruthless spirit of destruction which seemed to actuate the Révolutionnaires of 1793,) these Records were found to be in a state of deplorable confusion ; and the toil and patience required to examine and select from the vast mass of unarranged papers that load the shelves, can scarcely be appreciated by any one who has not had personal experience of the difficulty.

At the period of the French Revolution, these Archives were at Versailles, where they had been kept since the days of Louis XIV. ; and when the Government offices were subsequently transferred to Paris, the old Colonial papers were still left at Versailles—year by year accumulating dust, and abandoned to decay and deterioration. Here they remained through successive reigns, apparently unheeded ; and it was not until 1837, that they were finally installed in their present Dépôt facing the “Place de la Concorde.” It is to be hoped, that, under the supervision of the present very competent and intelligent chief, they will soon be arranged in a manner consistent with their high value, and worthy the dignity of the nation.

The papers relating to Canada, are contained in two several divisions. The one—a series of bound volumes, containing the despatches and instructions of the King and his Ministers, to the Colonial functionaries—the other, and by far the most fertile repository, is a series of enormous “Cartons,” or Portfolios, in which are placed, loosely, and

without the slightest attempt at arrangement, a vast mass of original Documents, relating to Canada, from 1630 to the treaty of Paris, 1763. There were upwards of a hundred of these Cartons to be thoroughly and carefully examined and a task more appalling to the investigator could scarcely have been proposed.

Dusty—decayed—imperfect—without order—often without a date to identify the Document—a paper relating to Dieskau's defeat jostling a despatch of Count Frontenac—an account of Montcalm's last effort at Quebec pêle-mêle with a letter of Governor Dongan—the expedition of 1690 mixed up with the attack on Fort William-Henry;—De la Barre and Duquèsne—the Hurons and Manhattan—Boston and the Ottawas, side by side, in the most admirable confusion,—the contents of these cartons furnish, indeed, the materials of a brilliant Historical Mosaic, whose riches well repay the patient investigator, but whose lamentable disorder might almost deter him from the painful research.

The Archives of the “Department of War,” however, present a gratifying contrast, in respect to arrangement, to those of the “Marine and Colonies.” The papers are chronologically arranged in bound volumes; and their examination was as agreeable and pleasant, as that of the Canada cartons was laborious and annoying. The papers found in this Repository relate, chiefly, to the period between 1755 and the Treaty of Paris; and comprise the correspondence of the Military Commanders in America, with the home Government, during the “French War.”

Seventeen folio volumes, containing upwards of six thousand pages of transcripts, are the results of the Agent's researches at Paris. It is confidently believed that they will be found of high interest to the Historian, and to supply a long perceived and regretted deficiency in our own State Records.

It is now proposed to refer, briefly, to a few of the points in our Colonial History, which the documents gleaned from the Archives just spoken of, open, illustrate, and explain.

We are already familiar with most of the circumstances connected with Henry Hudson's discovery and exploration, in the year 1609—under the auspices of the Dutch East India Company—of the noble River that now bears his name. To this voyage, we may, perhaps, properly refer, as the period of the commencement of our State Annals.

There are two leading authorities on this subject. One is the Journal of the Voyage, kept by Robert Juet, Hudson's mate; for the preservation of which we are indebted to the zeal and diligence of the Reverend Samuel Purchas, of London, who published it in his "PILGRIMS" in the year 1625. The other, is the account given by De Laet, the famous Dutch Historian, in his "*New World, or description of the West Indies*," the first edition of which was also published in the year 1625. De Laet was one of the most distinguished geographers of his day; and he evidently wrote his descriptions from original documents, which he states he had before him. Aware of this, the Agent of the State, when in Holland, made efforts to ascertain the fate of De Laet's papers, and, if possible, procure the original Journals, &c., from which he drew his details. But though great pains were taken, no information was obtained.

The unfortunate destruction of the early books and papers of the Dutch East and West India Companies, has already been alluded to. By an oversight, however, of the officers charged to effect the sale of these papers, a small volume escaped—a Register, apparently, of the sailing and arrival of the Company's ships.* In that book a few lines were found, relating to the vessel in which Hudson made his voyage to our River. The interest we all feel in every minute fact connected with this voyage, is heightened by the conviction that much of great Historical value is now

* The original grant, (on parchment) to Godin and Blommart, of lands on the South River, signed by Peter Minuit, and his council, dated at Fort Amsterdam, 15th July, 1630, was the only other paper found. It is now in the possession of the State.

irrecoverably lost ; and will serve as an apology, if any be necessary, for the detail of the few particulars now first made known to the members of the Society.

The record consists of but a few lines. It states that the “*yagt HALVE-MAAN*,” of 40 lasts (or 80 tons) burthen, sailed from Amsterdam, “towards the North,” in the year 1608* ; and that she returned on 15th July, 1610. That on the 2d May, 1611, she sailed, with another vessel, to the East Indies, under the command of Commander Laurens Reael ; and that on the 6th of March, 1615, she was wrecked and destroyed on the Island of Mauritius.

This is the whole of the information the Archives at Amsterdam have afforded, respecting Hudson’s ship. Short and meagre as the statement is, it shows that the *Halve-maan*, was of no more than 80 tons burthen ; a size which easily admits the supposition that she ascended the River as far as Waterford, or *Half-Moon*, as it was sometime called. It shows, also, that there is strong ground for believing the assertion that she was detained in England, on her return ; as we know from Juet’s journal that she arrived off Dartmouth on the 7th of November, 1609, and we now learn that she did not reach Amsterdam until the 15th July 1610—more than eight months afterwards. And, we now know, that the keel of the adventurous yacht that bore the first white man up the waters of our noble River, found at last, a resting place, on the 6th of March, 1615, on the far off and lonely beach of the Mauritius.

The period between Hudson’s voyage and the year 1614, is but vaguely known to our Historians. Had the early papers of the East and West India Companies been still in existence, we might have gathered many interesting details from them. We know, it is true, that the year after the discovery, a ship was sent from Amsterdam to the Hudson River ; and that in 1613, a few houses had been erected on Manhattan Island—the germ of this city. And though no

* So stated in the “*Ship-book*.” This refers, perhaps, to the date of her clearance at Amsterdam. She did not leave the Texel, till 9th April, 1609.

original documents have been discovered by the Agent, referring to the alleged visit of Argal, this year *to our Harbour*, there is every reason to believe that he actually landed here, and found a Dutch trading establishment organized.

The Archives at the Hague, however, have afforded us some novel and interesting particulars of these early days. The General Edict of the States General, of 27th March, 1614, in favor of "all persons who had discovered, or might discover any rivers, bays, harbors, or countries before unknown," is familiar to our Historians. This Edict was the result of a Resolution of the Province of Holland, which was passed, upon the memorial of certain merchants interested in maritime discovery, recommending to the States General the passage of a general ordinance declaring their intention to protect the interests of those who incurred the risks and expenses of exploring expeditions. But this Edict did not, *of itself*, assure the possession of the special privileges which De Laet tells us were granted by the States General to the Amsterdam merchants, who in 1610 had sent a ship to the Hudson River. It was necessary that a special grant should be passed, *in each case*, in which the monopoly promised by the general Edict was desired.

We now learn, for the first time, from the minutes of the States General, the particulars of the special grant relative to New Netherland—that on Saturday, the 11th day of October, 1614,*—five years after the discovery of the Hudson—there appeared before the meeting, the deputies of the United Company of Merchants who had discovered "New Netherland," and made a report of their discoveries, to their High Mightinesses, and asked for a special edict in their favor, agreeably to the terms of the general ordinance of 27th March. They stated, that at great expense and heavy damage to themselves, arising from the loss of vessels, during the last year, they had, with five ships, owned by them, discovered and explored certain new lands lying

* Hol. Doc. vol. 1, p. 39.

in America, between New France and Virginia, in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees—which they called “New Netherland.” They, at the same time, presented a map of the newly discovered country. It is presumed that the Report of these discoveries was a verbal one, as no statement, in writing, has been found in the Archives. But, fortunately, the map then presented was found; a facsimile of which is now in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, as part of the “Holland Documents,” of the Agency. This map is undoubtedly, one of the most interesting memorials we have. It is about three feet long, and shows, very minutely, the course of the Hudson River from Manhattan to above Albany, as well as a portion of the sea-coast; and contains, likewise, curious notes and memoranda about the neighboring Indians. The work, perhaps, of one of the companions of Hudson, himself, and made within five years of the discovery of our River, its fidelity of delineation is scarcely less remarkable than its high antiquity.

The States General, upon hearing the Report of the memorialists, and after an inspection of this map, ordained that those memorialists should have the exclusive right of visiting the newly discovered lands in America, between 40 and 45 degrees of North latitude, and between New France and Virginia, as laid down upon the map before them, and called “New Netherland,” for four voyages during a period of three years, to commence on the first day of January, 1615, or sooner—and that no other persons than they, should sail out of the ports of the United Provinces to “New Netherland,” under penalty of a fine of 50,000 ducats, and a confiscation of ships and cargoes—and they further expressly commanded all their magistrates, officers and citizens to interpose no obstacle to the memorialists full and perfect enjoyment of their grant, which they declared to be “for the service and benefit of the Netherlands.”*

This was the first official recognition of the existence of

* Hol. Doc., vol. 1, p. 47.—See Note A., post.

“ New Netherland” by the States General. *Its name occurs, for the first time, in this grant.* The subject is one of such peculiar interest to all New Yorkers, that no apology is thought necessary for introducing the names of the owners, and of the ships, and their captains, by whom the discoveries were made. They were, Garret Jacobsen Witsen, formerly Burgomaster of the city of Amsterdam, Jonas Witsen, and Simon Monisen, owners of the ship *Fox*, captain John De With;—Hans Hongers, Paulus Pelgrom, and Lambrecht Van Tweenhuysen, owners of the two ships, the *Tiger*, and the *Fortune*, captains Adriaen Block, and Hendrick Corstiansen;—Arnold Van Lybergen, Wessel Schenck, Hans Claessen, and Barent Sweertsen, owners of the ship *Nightengale*, Captain Thys Volkertsen;—all of Amsterdam;—and Peter Clementsen Brower, Jan Clementsen Kies, and Cornelis Volkertsen, merchants of Hoorn, owners of the ship *Fortune*, captain Cornelis Jacobsen May.

The names of some of these captains are already familiar to the Historian. Block Island, and Cape May, to this hour tell us who were the hardy mariners that early explored them; and an Island in the Hudson River for a long time bore the name of Jan de With. Hendrick Corstiansen, or Christiansen, De Laet tells us, was the first commandant of the fort erected on the River, near Albany, this very year, (1614); but the name of Captain Thys Volkertsen has not as yet, appeared in our annals.

The Amsterdam Company, thus fortified with the special authority of the States General, prosecuted their explorations in New Netherland; and the next notice we find of their progress in discovery, is an entry in the Registers of their High Mightinesses, on the 18th of August, 1616*—about two years afterwards. On this occasion, Captain Cornelis Hendricksen, of Monichendam, in Holland, appeared before the meeting, on behalf of Gerrit Jacobsen Witsen, Jonas Witsen, Lambrecht Van Tweenhuysen, Paulus Pelgrom, and others, “Directors of New Netherland,” situated in

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 53.

America, "between New France and Virginia, and extending from 40 to 45 degrees of North latitude," and made a Report of his having discovered and explored certain lands, a bay, and three rivers, situated between 38 and 40 degrees of latitude, *in a small yacht of 16 tons burthen, named the "Onrust," (RESTLESS,) which had been built there.* He also presented to their High Mightinesses a descriptive map of the countries he had discovered and explored. This map is very curious. It is drawn on parchment, about 2 feet long and 18 inches wide, and is executed in the most elegant style of art. It shows, very accurately, the situation of the coast from Nova Scotia to the Capes of Virginia, and the discoveries then made in Long Island Sound, and in the neighborhood of Manhattan. A fac-simile of this map is also in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany.

Upon this Report, which was probably a verbal one, the States General were prayed for a new special grant, in conformity with the provisions of the general Edict of 27th March, 1614. The States, however, Resolved, before coming to any decision, to have a report in writing, which was accordingly drawn up and presented to them the next day. In that Report,* Captain Hendricksen states that on behalf, and for account of the owners of his ship, and "Directors of New Netherland," he had discovered certain lands, a bay, and three rivers, situated between 38 and 40 degrees of latitude—that he traded with the natives for furs,—that he found the land full of valuable timber, which in some places was covered with grape vines—that he found the climate very similar to that of Holland,—and that he bought three of the native inhabitants, from the Maquas and Mohicans, who held them in slavery, for whom he gave in exchange, kettles, beads, and merchandize.

The Report thus presented to the States General, was several times taken into consideration ; but nothing appears to have been finally done in relation to granting the special privilege applied for. We learn from it, however, the

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 59.

curious, if not the important fact, that the name of the first vessel built by white men in this State, 230 years ago,—a yacht of 16 tons burthen—was the “RESTLESS.” This is the Register of the first vessel, of which we have any account, belonging to the port of New York! And what a prophetic name, this, for the pioneer craft of this busy, bustling, *restless* metropolis—whose enterprising commerce now “pushes its wharves into the sea, blocks up the wide rivers with its fleets, and sending its ships, the pride of naval architecture, to every clime, defies every wind, outrides every tempest, and invades every zone.”*

A further remark is ventured in connexion with this subject. De Laet states that Captain Adriaen Block, when his ship, (the Tiger,) was accidentally burned in 1614, built a yacht with a keel 38 feet long, 44 feet from stem to stern, and 11 1-2 feet wide, with which he sailed through Hell-Gate, into Long Island Sound, and explored the neighborhood as far as Cape Cod; where he fell in with Hendrick Christianse’s ship, in which he embarked and returned to Holland. The yacht here spoken of, was doubtless the “RESTLESS,” which De Laet also states Block left in New Netherland for further use, when he returned home. Captain Hendricksen, may have been, and probably was Block’s Lieutenant, or mate, to whom he left the command of the yacht, when he embarked for Holland in Christianse’s ship; and this is, perhaps, the reason why Hendricksen, and not Block, made the Report to the States General, in 1616.

The Amsterdam Company which had received the grant of special trading privileges in 1614, applied to the States General on 4th October, 1618,† for a renewal or continuance of their monopoly; but though the petitioners were allowed to send their ship to New Netherland, no exclusive privilege seems to have been granted, to the extent desired. Wagenaar, the Dutch Historian, speaks of a limited act of incorporation to a company of merchants, in November of this year; but nothing appears on the minutes of the

* Bancroft.

† Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 91.

States general, except the simple Resolution just referred to. An examination of the probable motives of the conduct of the States in this respect, cannot be attempted on this occasion. This will be the province of the future Historian.

On the 12th day of February, 1620,* the Directors of the Company trading to New Netherland presented a memorial to the States General, of a very interesting character, and now for the first time made known to the American Historian. It was addressed to the Prince of Orange. In this Document, the memorialists state their having for several years traded to New Netherland, under the authority of the States General: and that they have made a report and delivered in a map of their discoveries there. That as their special grant has expired, and any one is now at liberty to trade there, they have, for the purpose of keeping up the reputation of the trade, continued to send two ships thither, and that other ships have also been sent by other merchants not in their company. That there is now (1620) residing at Leyden, a certain English preacher, who is well versed in the Dutch language, and who is inclined to go to settle in New Netherland; and that he has assured the memorialists that over 400 families, as well from Holland as from England, would go with him, to propagate the Christian religion and convert the savages to the true faith, and through the grace of the Lord, and to the glory of the government of the United Provinces, to colonize a "new Empire" there, under the auspices of the States General, and the Prince of Orange; provided they be protected and defended from the attacks of other powers, by the Government of the United Provinces. That the memorialists have learned that the King of Great Britain is disposed to colonize New Netherland with British subjects, and forcibly deprive them of their possessions and of the benefits of their discoveries there, as well as the Government of the United Provinces of their rights. That there is danger that

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 95.—See Note B., post.

their vessels which are now there, may be surprised by the English ; and that on account of the considerations stated above, they pray that the preacher and 400 families may be taken under the protection of the Government, and that two ships of war may be sent to secure the possession of New Netherland—" which may be of great importance, when the West India Company shall be finally organized."

This interesting memorial was several times under the consideration of the States General. Had its prayer been granted, Robinson, and his Puritan followers would probably have landed on the shores of New Netherland, in all the "pomp and circumstance" of naval etiquette. The cannon of the Dutch war-ships would have saluted their debarkation ; and the persecuted and rejected for conscience-sake, of England, would have found an asylum, under the protection of the flag of the United Provinces. The "Preacher at Leyden," and his devoted band, would have unfurled the standard of the cross, and taught the faith to the savages on the shores of the Hudson. The men who "on the rich and the eloquent, on nobles and priests looked down with contempt;" who "esteemed themselves rich in a more precious treasure, and eloquent in a more sublime language ; nobles by the right of an earlier creation, and priests by the imposition of a mightier hand,"* would not then, perhaps, have landed, unbefriended and unwelcomed, "on a stern and rock-bound coast ;" but would have anchored in a secure and beautiful haven, welcomed to colonize the "New Empire" they desired to found on the shores of the Hudson, under the auspices and protection of those, whose "good and courteous entreaty," in their Fatherland, could never be forgotten. And Plymouth Rock, would not, perhaps, now be marked by a grateful posterity, as the spot where their forefathers first touched the New World !

But whatever may have been the causes—and we cannot now stop to examine them—the States General, after repeated deliberations on the subject, finally resolved, on

* Macaulay.

the 11th day of April, 1620,* to reject the prayer of the memorialists. The consequences of this determination are hard to be fully estimated at this day. It may have decided,—it, very probably, materially influenced the destinies of our country.

Some of our Historians have favored the idea that the "Mayflower," in which the Puritans ^{who} embarked at Delft-Haven, in July, 1620, (three months after the rejection, by the States General, of the ~~petition just referred to,~~ ^{finally sailed from England,}) was taken to Plymouth, by the ignorance and self-will, if not the treachery of the captain, and against the wishes of the passengers, who, it is alleged, were desirous to go to the Hudson River. But besides the reasons which have already been brought forward against this opinion, a new and weighty one seems to result from the Petition of February, 1620, and its rejection by the States General. Robinson desired to colonize "a new empire" in New Netherland, under the auspices and protection of the United Provinces. That Government having formally rejected the petition, and declined giving the protection of the ships of war that were asked for, it is more than probable that the Puritans, when they left Holland, themselves preferred to settle in some part of North America, beyond the Dutch Frontier.

The records of the States General of the 29th August, 1620,† show that the necessity of the organization of a general West India Company, was becoming every day more apparent. On that day, the owners of the ship *Blyde Bootschap*, (good news,) Captain Cornelis Jacobsen May, presented a Petition, stating further discoveries they had made in New Netherland, and asking for a special edict in their favor; and at the same time an opposing Petition was presented by Henry Elkens, and others, praying their High Mightinesses to refuse to pass any grant in favor of any other persons than themselves. The States General, upon this, called both parties into their presence,

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 103.

† Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 104.

and directed them to meet together and try to arrange their differences, amicably. But it seems that these differences and jealousies were irreconcilable : for on the 6th of November,* three months afterwards—the committee of the States General—Messrs. Pauw and Fervan, to whom the matter was referred, reported that they had patiently investigated the differences between the parties, for the purpose of bringing them to agreement, but that they were not able to accomplish their object. Whereupon, the States General resolved to refuse the new grant as petitioned for.

We find, accordingly, that the next year, (3d June, 1621) the States General established by law, the famous “Chartered West India Company.” The provisions of this celebrated grant are so well known to the historian, that it is unnecessary to refer to them on this occasion. The encouragement and protection of New Netherland, though not the main object of the establishment of the company, may certainly be presumed to have entered into the considerations that induced the charter. The repeated applications for special trading privileges, very probably became somewhat annoying ; and the necessity of some general regulation on the subject, apparent. The Company, however did not commence its operations till the year 1623 ; and we find that in the interim, on the 28th September, 1621,† the States General granted to Claes Jacobsen Haringcaspel, formerly a Schepen of the City of Amsterdam, Peter Plancius, Minister of the Gospel, Lambrecht Van Tweenhuysen, Hans Claessen, and others, a special privilege of sending two ships to New Netherland.

We now come to another very interesting and novel point in the History of our State. While the Government of the United Provinces was gradually becoming aware of the existence of New Netherland, the English Government was not inattentive to the progress of the Dutch Colony. The subject seems to have been brought particularly before the notice of the Privy Council by the Virginia Company ; for,

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 106.

† Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 113.

on the 15th day of December, 1621, a letter was addressed to Sir Dudley Carleton, the English Ambassador at the Hague, directing him to bring the subject of the Dutch Plantation in North America, under the special notice of the States General. As this document is the earliest one yet met with, in which the British Government seem distinctly to have asserted the unlawfulness of the Dutch Colony, it may not be amiss to quote it at length. The Council say*—"Whereas his Majesty's subjects have, many years since, taken possession of the whole precinct, and inhabited some parts of the north of Virginia, (by us called New England,) of all which countries His Majesty hath, in like manner, some years since, by Patent granted the quiet and full possession unto particular persons, nevertheless we understand, that the year past, the Hollanders have entered upon some part thereof, and have left a Colony and given new names to the several ports appertaining to that part of the country, and are now in readiness to send for their supply six or eight ships,—Whereof His Majesty being advertised, we have received his Royal Commandment to signify his pleasure that you should represent these things to the States General, in his Majesty's name, (who, *jure primæ occupationis*, hath good and sufficient title to those parts) and require of them, that as well those ships, as their further prosecution of that Plantation may be presently stayed."

Sir Dudley Carleton, on the receipt of this Despatch, proceeded to make enquiries on the subject, before he brought it under the notice of the States. In his reply to the Council,† he says that all he could find out about the matter was, that, about four or five years previously, two companies of Amsterdam merchants began a trade to America, between 40 and 45 degrees of latitude, to which they gave the names of New Netherland, North and South Sea, Texel, Vrieland, and the like—that they have ever since continued to send there, ships of 30 or 40 lasts (60 or 80 tons) at most, to fetch

* London Doc. Vol. 1, p. 17.

† London Doc. Vol. 1, p. 19.

furs, which is all their trade ; for which purpose they have factors continually resident there, trading with the savages—but that he cannot learn that any colony has as yet been planted there, or is as much as intended, &c. That upon obtaining these facts, he asked an audience of the States General, and presented a written memorial in conformity to the instructions of the Privy Council. This memorial appears to have been referred, by the States General, to the Deputies from Holland, upon their request, in order to inform themselves of the state of the affair, of which they pretended to be ignorant.* No copy of it was found in the archives at the Hague. A copy however, transmitted by Carleton, was found in the State Paper office in London. No distinct action seems to have been taken by the States, on this memorial. On the 16th of March, 1622,† more than two months after it was presented, the States, upon Carleton's asking that some order be taken upon it, resolved that the “participants in the trade to New Netherland” be written to for information on the subject. The States evidently knew little or nothing about the matter. No letter in reply to this resolution has been found in their Archives ; and it is at least doubtful whether any answer was ever returned to the British Government ; either through Sir Dudley Carleton, or through the Dutch Ambassador at London, Sir Noel Caron. No copy of a despatch to either, on this subject, has been found at the Hague. It is true, that Captain John Mason, in writing to Secretary Coke, on 2d April, 1632‡—ten years afterwards—in referring to this very matter, speaks of an answer of Caron, the Dutch Ambassador, at London, in which, in behalf of the States General, he disclaimed and disavowed any such proceedings in reference to New Netherland, as the Privy Council had complained of, and refers to Lords Baltimore and Arundel as recollecting the circumstance ;§ but no letter of Caron, to this effect, has been

* Carleton's letter to the Privy Council, Lond. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 20.

† Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 117. ‡ London Doc., Vol. 1, p. 47.

§ In this letter, Mason says the Dutch at Manahata built ships there, “*whereof one was sent into Holland, of 600 tunnes, or thereabouts.*”

found, though a careful search was made for it, both in the Archives at the Hague, and in the State Paper office in London.

History has already asserted that Manhattan Island, upon which this city is built, was purchased from the aborigines, by our Dutch forefathers. The earliest authority hitherto known, is De Laet, who tells us that the Directors of the West India Company, in furtherance of the objects of their incorporation, had built a small Fort on the upper part of the North River, in latitude 43° or thereabouts, which they called “t'Fort Van Orangien,” and also “another Fort, “of greater importance at the mouth of the river, upon an “Island called Manhlettes, or Manhattans, because the same “formerly belonged to this nation of Indians, and was by “them, sold to the Company. Here, our people have, as it “were, established their head-quarters, or principal Colony, “and named it New Amsterdam.” This statement is found in the *second edition* of De Laet's History, published in 1630. It is not found in the first edition of 1625, (a translation of which is contained in the last volume of the Collections of this Society,) and for the reason that the Island was not purchased till 1626; the evidence of which exists in the “Holland Documents” of the Agency.

On the 5th of November, 1626,* Mr. Schagen, the Deputy of the States General to the meeting of the West India Company at Amsterdam, thus writes to their High Mightinesses at the Hague.—“Yesterday arrived the vessel, ‘The ‘Arms of Amsterdam.’ She left New Netherland, on the “23d of September, from the river Mauritius, bringing “advices that our people there live wisely and peacefully. “Their wives also bear children; *and they have bought the “Island of Manhattan from the savages for the value of sixty “guilders. It contains 11,000 morgens of land*”—&c., &c. The original title-deed of this city, we thus learn, bore date about the year 1626; and the consideration paid, for the whole island, (whose contents were then estimated to be about 22,000 acres,) was about TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS, of our present currency!!

* Hol. Doc. Vol. 1, p. 155.

An incident occurred in the year 1632, which gave rise to a more distinct assertion, on the part of the British Government, of its sovereignty over New Netherland. On the 5th of April, in that year,* the Directors of the West India Company, gave notice to the Deputy of the States General who attended their meeting at Amsterdam, that one of their ships named the "Eendragt," (Unity) coming from New Netherland, and which had put in at Plymouth, had been arrested and detained there by the English authorities. The States General, after deliberation on the subject, resolved that their Ambassadors at London, Joachimi, and Brasser, should be written to, in order that they should exert themselves to have the ship set at liberty ; and a letter was accordingly sent.

The Ambassadors presented the subject to King Charles I., in an audience which they had in the early part of April. They stated† that the ship had come from New Netherland, where the subjects of their High Mightinessess had, for a long time, carried on a peaceable traffic, and had, moreover, several years ago, planted a colony on a certain Island named Manhattan, situated on a river so named, and which they had bought from the savages. That, till now, they had been accustomed to enter into and depart from the ports and havens of His Majesty, without any hindrance, but that lately a ship coming from that quarter, had been arrested for having traded, (as alleged,) within the jurisdiction of His Majesty.

The King replied, that the Governor of Plymouth had already advised him of the circumstances of the arrest ; and that some time ago, upon the complaint of his father, King James I., *the States General had interdicted their subjects from trading in that quarter.* But, he added, that he could not then say, exactly, what the situation of the affair was ; and that he would inform himself more particularly about it. Upon the Ambassadors urging a provisional discharge of the ship, the King said he could do nothing on the subject, as long as he was not quite sure what his rights were.

* Hol. Doc. Vol. 1, p. 187.

† Hol. Doc. Vol. 1, p. 200.

The Ambassadors then desire the States General to send them such documentary evidence as will serve to maintain and prove the right of the Dutch to trade to New Nether-land; which they add, "will undoubtedly be most sharply disputed by the English Government."

On the 5th of May,* the Directors of the West India Company again wrote to the States General, upon this subject. They say that they have received a letter from the Ambassadors at London, of the same date as the one to the States General above referred to, in which it is stated that *Peter Minuit, of Wesel, Director on behalf of the Company, in New Nether-land, and Jan Lampo, of Cantelburgh, Schout upon the Island of Manhattan, who had come passengers in the Eendragt*, had informed them of the arrest of that ship; and that they had, thereupon, had an audience of the King upon the subject. That they had also spoken to some of the members of the Privy Council, about the matter, and had received, in sub-stance, the same answer as that which the King had given them. The Directors then proceed to give the States General a statement or deduction of their title to New Nether-land. They say that the North River, commonly called the Manhatten, or River of the Mountains, was first dis-co-vered in the year 1609, by Dutch subjects. That it was again visited by them in 1610, and the following years; and that finally in the year 1615, their High Mightinesses gave a special Octroy to certain of their subjects to trade there, to the exclusion of all other persons. That a fort and garrison had been established there, which had been main-tained until the passing of the Charter of the West India Company, which included those territories, along with others. That in the year 1606, His Britannic Majesty had granted Special Patents to certain of his subjects, for the territories to the North and South of this River, under the names of New England and Virginia; with an express pro-vision that there should be an interval of one hundred miles between them, which was to remain always so. That,

* Hol. Doc. Vol. 1, p. 209.

thereupon, the English began a settlement upon the River Sagadahoc ; which being given up, they again began a new Colony to the North of New Netherland, in the year 1620, which they called New Plymouth. That the English, according to their patent, reckon New England between the 41st and 45th degrees of north latitude. That Virginia, which the English began to settle in 1606, is to the southward of New Netherland, and extends, according to their Patent, from 37 to 39 degrees of north latitude. So that, according to their own showing, the territory between the 39th and the 41st degrees, is left open to the Dutch. The Directors then refer to the Octroy of 11th October, 1614, for the limits assigned to the Dutch traders by the States General ; and add, that in respect to the representation alleged by King Charles to have been made by his Father, to the States General, &c., they have no knowledge of the matter.

Upon the receipt of this communication of the West India Company, the States General wrote to their Ambassadors at London,* to exert themselves to procure the release of the ship. They likewise sent a copy of it, together with a copy of the Octroy of 11th October, 1614, adding, *that they expect by means of these Documents the right of the West India Company to trade to New Netherland can be maintained.*

The Ambassadors accordingly drew up a Memorial,† which they addressed to the King ; and in which the claims of the Dutch to New Netherland were stated at length. To this memorial a full and explicit answer was returned by the English Government. They say : ‡ “ In the fourth and “ last place, they (the Dutch) ask for the liberation of a ship “ arrested at Plymouth, returning from a certain Plantation “ usurped by them in the northern parts of Virginia, which “ they say they have bought from the Aboriginal Savages “ of the country. But, in the first place, we deny that the “ Savages were the bona-fide possessors of those countries,

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 219.

† Hol. Doc., Vol 1, p. 248.

‡ Hol. Doc., Vol. 1, p. 236.

“in such a manner (en sorte que) that they could dispose of
“them, either by sale or by gift; their habitations being
“moveable and uncertain, and every thing being in com-
“mon: And, in the second place, it cannot be proved, *de
facto*, that all the Savages had contracted with the pur-
“chasers in this pretended sale. And in respect to what
“they say, that the said Savages have their dwellings all
“around them, the truth is, that the English surround them
“on all sides, which they have before now seen when they
“attempted to maintain their rights against them. Besides
“this, the right which His Majesty’s subjects have to this
“country is justified by the first discovery, occupation, and
“possession which they have made of them, and by the con-
“cessions, and letters patents which they have had from our
“Sovereigns, who, for these reasons, were the true and le-
“gitimate proprietors: which the States General had not
“in themselves; and they have never attributed to them-
“selves such a pretension, nor have they ever passed any
“patent to their subjects to give them any title or power in
“this respect. This was proved in the year 1621, when
“the late King, of blessed memory, upon the complaint and
“remonstrance of the Earl of Arundel, Sir Fernando Gorges,
“Sir Samuel Argol, and Captain Mason, ordered his Am-
“bassador to desire the States General to prohibit the de-
“parture of certain vessels which were preparing to go to
“the said land, and to forbid their subjects to enter into the
“said Plantation,—for then their reply was, *that they did
not know any thing of such an enterprize*; which was very
“probably the case, because the said Ambassador, after
“having informed himself more particularly of the state of
“the matter, certified His Majesty by his letters, that it was
“only two Companies of Merchants of Amsterdam, who,
“without the privity or knowledge of the said Lord’s States
“General, had commenced to trade between the 40th and
“50th degree, within the limits of His Majesty’s Plantation
“of Virginia, in that country, and had given to those places
“the names of New Netherland, Texel, Vlieland, and the
“like, and sent ships of 30 and 40 lasts (burthen,) to collect

“furs in those quarters; but that he could not learn that “they had commenced or even designed to establish a Plantation there; and that he had further reason to believe “this, because, about the same time, a considerable number “of families, inhabitants of the United Provinces, came to “solicit him to procure for them a place in the said country, “where they might settle themselves among the subjects of “His Majesty. And so, if those who have now just arrived “from there, and the rest who are there settled, are willing to “make a like request, and submit themselves to the Government of His Majesty, as his subjects, it can be ascertained whether it will please him to admit them in that “quality, and therefore permit them to go there with their “ships and merchandize, or to sell the same here at the best “price they can; Provided, the States General promise to “prevent them from going to or frequenting those quarters, “in any other character. To which, if they do not consent, “His Majesty’s interests cannot allow him to permit them “thus to usurp and encroach upon a Colony of such importance, and which he has strong motives to cherish and “maintain in its integrity.”

No apology is offered for the quotation, at length, of the translation of this important Diplomatic paper. The strenuous vindication of the British right of sovereignty over New Netherland, was followed, a few days after, by an act of grace; and on the 27th of May,* 1632, the Dutch Ambassadors at London, acquainted the States General that the Lord High Treasurer had agreed to release the “Eendragt” from arrest, with a proviso saving any prejudice to His Majesty’s rights.

In connexion with this subject, a reference is ventured to another curious and interesting paper, forming part of the “London Documents.” It is a translation of a letter of *Wouter Van Twiller*, Director in New Netherland, to the Governor of the English Colony at the Massachusetts Bay, respecting the Dutch settlement on the Connecticut River;

dated at Fort Amsterdam, the ^{23d September, 4th October,} 1633. This Document was found in the State Paper Office, in London. Van Twiller, in this letter,* expresses his surprise at the English objecting to the Dutch having taken possession of that part of the country; and wishes them to defer their "pretence or claim" to it, till the States General, and the King of England agree about their respective limits in America; as he is desirous they should live "as good neighbors in these heathenishe countryes." He adds, "I have, in "the name of the Lords the States Generall, and the au- "thorized West India Company, taken possession of the "forementioned River, and for testimony thereof, have sett "up an house on the North side of the said River, with "intent to plant, &c. It's not the intent of the States to "take the land from the poore Natives, as the Kinge of "Spaine hath done, by the Pope's Donation, but rather to "take itt from the said Natives at some reasonable and con- "venient price, which, God be prayssed, we have done "hitherto. In this parte of the world are divers heathen "lands that are emptye of inhabitants, so that of a little "parte or portion thereof, there needes not any question. "I should bee very sorrye that wee should bee occasion that "the Kinge's Ma^{ie} of England and the Lords the States "General should fall into anye contention."

So much of your time has already been occupied with specific details, that the contents of the "Holland Documents," subsequent to 1632, must be very briefly and cursorily adverted to.

Among these, may be noticed the proceedings of the States General, in 1634, respecting the differences which had thus early broken out between the West India Company, and the Patroons, or heads of Colonies, in New Netherland. The statement of the Patroons, and the answer of the Company, and the Replication; and the final shuffling off of a decision by the States. We find also the correspondence between the States General, and their Ambassador at

* London Documents, Vol. 1, p. 53.

London, respecting a complaint made by English merchants against the Dutch in New Netherland, for interrupting their commerce &c., in 1633—the memorial of the West India Company to the States, on the subject, with a deduction of their title to the country—and the final Resolution* of their High Mightinesses that they cannot interfere in the matter, which must take its own course—at the same time hinting to the Company that they had better confer about the affair with Boswell, the English Ambassador at the Hague.

We also find it stated that on the 2d of September, 1637,† the West India Company prayed the States General to issue a commission for *William Kieft* as Director in New Netherland, in place of *Wouter Van Twyller*; which was agreed to; and that Kieft accordingly appeared before the meeting and the oath of office was administered to him.

We learn, also, that on the 26th of April, 1636,‡ the States General took the important, and long delayed step of giving formal countenance to New Netherland, by instructing their deputies to the meeting of the West India Company, to endeavor to promote its colonization, and to pledge the faith of the States *that they shall not be dispossessed by any foreign power*; and that subsequently, on 13th March, 1640, they again instructed their deputies to the West India Company to exert themselves that the inhabitants of New Netherland may be put in the best condition.

These Documents also contain a correspondence between the Dutch Ambassadors at London, and the States, about the troubles between New England and New Netherland, in 1642. Memorials, also, presented in 1643 to the States by inhabitants of New Netherland, complaining of the conduct of the West India Company; and the defence of the Company in 1645. The proceedings of the States General upon the Commission and Instructions of *Stuyvesant*, as Director, &c. in New Netherland. Their refusal to ratify them until they had ascertained what disposition the

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 2, p. 144.

† Hol. Doc., Vol. 2, p. 183.

‡ Hol. Doc., Vol. 2, p. 188.

Company had made of the complaints against them from New Netherland—and finally the statement of Stuyvesant's appearing, in person, before their meeting at the Hague, and taking his oath of office on 28th July, 1646.*

We find, also, that the States General in the year 1648, looked carefully into the affairs of the West India Company, and appointed a special Committee of examination, whose report contains much valuable and interesting matter.

In 1649, we have full details of the proceedings of the States General upon the memorial of the Committee of the "Gemeente" or Commonalty of New Netherland, complaining of the conduct of the authorities there. This memorial is the famous "Vertoogh," which was probably drawn up by Van der Donck, the Historian ; and contains a sketch of New Netherland from its discovery, to 1649. The answer of the West India Company to the charges against them by the "Gemeente," (which contain 68 specific points of complaint,) is a curious and very interesting Document ; and is supposed to have been drawn up by Cornelis Van Tienhoven, the Secretary in New Netherland, as the original is in his hand-writing. The whole of these proceedings, which are too voluminous to be even briefly sketched, on this occasion, will be found at length, in the "Holland Documents ;" and form very valuable additions to our Historical materials.

So many complaints had been made, from time to time, to the States General, against Stuyvesant, that they resolved, on the 27th of April, 1652,† to recall him to Holland, to give an account of the state of affairs in New Netherland. But the relations with England, at this juncture, becoming very critical, the States rescinded their Resolution, and directed Van der Donck, to whom the letter was entrusted, to deliver it up again ; and in July following, we find their High Mightinesses passing a secret Resolution to send a Frigate for the protection of New Netherland against the English, and writing to Stuyvesant that, in the present aspect of affairs

* Hol. Doc. Vol. 3, p. 83.

† Hol. Doc., Vol. 6, p. 123.

between England and the United Provinces, it is especially needful for him to keep a careful watch, and employ no person in office, of whose devotion to the State he is not perfectly assured.

In 1653 and 1654 we meet with many interesting Documents, respecting the question of the boundaries of New Netherland ; and in the year 1656, a very voluminous detail of the circumstances of the ejection of the Swedes from the South River, and of the negotiations of the West India Company with the City of Amsterdam, for the transfer of a part of their territory on that river. In 1660, the differences between the Dutch and Lord Baltimore figure very largely in these Documents ; and down to 1664, we find a voluminous correspondence between the functionaries on the South River and the Government of the City of Amsterdam, respecting their Colony there, as well as diplomatic correspondence between the Swedish Ambassador and the States General, on the subject of the capture in 1655.

In 1664, we find a detailed account of the proceedings of the States General in reference to the surrender of New Netherland—correspondence with the Ambassadors at London, and the Hague, on this subject, and many novel and interesting particulars in relation to this matter, and the subsequent differences with England.

After the surrender, we find that Stuyvesant returned to Holland, for the purpose of making a report of his administration of the Government of New Netherland ; and that on the 9th October, 1665,* he submitted a memorial on the subject, to the States General, with accompanying papers, which are highly interesting. The West India Company in 1666, presented to the States opposing papers, and Stuyvesant, further Documents, all of which will he read with interest, and furnish rich materials for the Historian.

We must here arrest any further reference to the contents of the “Holland Documents.” There are several points of interest which have not been touched ; but the limits of an

* Hol. Doc., Vol. 9, p. 207.

address of this character, will not allow us to go into further details. To the future Historian will belong the grateful duty of developing their full value.

The "Dutch Colonial Records" at Albany, commence with 1638,* and contain, perhaps, more details of a personal character, than the "Holland Documents," which relate chiefly to the official proceedings of the States General, in regard to New Netherland, and the West India Company. It was hoped that some of the deficiencies in the Archives at the Hague, would have been supplied by the papers of that Company; but their unfortunate destruction, while it deprives us of much interesting information which we had hoped to obtain, increases the value of our own Dutch Colonial Records at Albany, in the eyes of the Historian, and renders still more important, the more general Documents at the Hague.

The "Paris Documents," will now claim your attention, for a few moments only; as our time, and your patience will not permit more than a passing glance at some of the more important.

The contents of these volumes, relate, chiefly, to the transactions of the French officials in Canada, affecting the neighboring British Colonies, particularly New York; and to their negotiations with the Indian tribes on the frontier. The Documents selected, include copies of Despatches and Instructions from the French Court, to their officers in the Colony, and letters and journals sent by the French authorities in Canada to the Government at home, and having reference to subjects more or less intimately connected with our own Colonial History.†

Among these, may be noticed the treaties with the Indians in 1665, and 1666, and a very curious paper of the latter

* There are a few records of conveyances of land, of an earlier date; but none of these earlier than 1630.

† The excellent work of Charlevoix will of course, ever continue a valuable standard in our Libraries; but the possession of many of the original authorities from which he wrote, cannot but be a source of much congratulation to the Historian of this State.

year, giving an account of the Iroquois tribes, with illustrative drawings, showing their peculiar and distinctive armorial bearings, &c. The accounts of the expedition of M. de Courcelles, on Lake Ontario, in 1671 ; and of M. de Frontenac in 1673, with his interviews with the Indians during the summer, will be read with much interest and pleasure. The correspondence between the Court, and M. M. de Frontenac, and De la Barre, is very important to our Historians, as showing the private views of the French authorities respecting the English neighboring Colonies ; and the instructions as to the conduct to be observed towards Governor Dongan, and the correspondence between that functionary and the French Governors in Canada, will be found of much value.

The Marquis de Denonville's administration of the Government of Canada was fruitful of interesting incident ; and his despatches and memoirs home, are voluminous and exact. We find him urging on the home Government, very strongly, the necessity of subjugating the Indian tribes to the French dominion ; and his accounts of his expeditions against them, and his correspondence with the Governor of New York, show an ardent desire to extend the sovereignty of the Fleur de lis over the northern portion of our Continent.

In 1689, and 1690, we find many very interesting documents. Among them, M. de Callière's various memorials to the French Government, upon the subject of the proposed conquest of New York, and plans, in detail, for its accomplishment. These views were adopted by Seignelay, the Minister of the Marine ; and we have the General Instructions given to M. de Frontenac, upon his re-appointment as Governor of Canada, on 7th June, 1689 ; as well as the private instructions given, at the same time, in reference to the proposed conquest of this Province. Charlevoix has already given us the main facts ;—but we have not heretofore learned the full details of the proposed expedition. That Albany was to be surprised and captured, while Manhattan was at the same time to be invested and reduced. That no “suspected persons” were to be left in the Province ;

their effects to be inventoried for the benefit of the King, and such as can only be sold in France, to be sent there. That “Catholics of fidelity” were to be left in the enjoyment of their property, after having taken the oath of allegiance; and that the officers and principal inhabitants from whom ransoms could be obtained, were to be kept in prison. That all the other men, and women, and children were to be sent to New England, or Pennsylvania, or any other place, “separately or all together”—and that whatever fugitive French—particularly those of the *Pretended Reformed Religion*, were found here, were to be sent back to France. That the English settlements and dwellings near Manhattan, were to be destroyed, as soon as possible, and those further off to be laid under contribution; and that M. de Callière, who was appointed to the Government of the conquered territory, was to take care to make a solid and advantageous peace with the Indians, who undoubtedly would be disposed to ask it, after being deprived of the countenance of the English.

It will be noticed that this Instruction was given to Frontenac, about four years after the memorable revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

Among these Documents, we also find a remarkable and curious paper,—a letter written by Monsieur de Monseignat, “Controleur Général de la Marine,” in Canada, to Madame de Maintenon, (as it is presumed,) giving a full detail of the occurrences in Canada until the month of November, 1690. This paper contains a graphic and original account of the attack and burning of Schenectady, in February of that year, and will be read with deep interest.

We find also, very important details, in the various Journals from time to time sent to Paris, of Canadian affairs. Letters between Lord Bellomont, and Count Frontenac—accounts of the progress of the French occupancy of our territory—of the forts built upon Lakes Ontario, Champlain, and Horikan; and of the negotiations with the Onondagas, and other tribes of Indians within our present borders. Among these papers we may notice a plan of the elevation &c., of

the fort at the mouth of the Oswego, in 1727; and a map made by the French, of the country between the head of Lake Champlain, and Albany, which exhibits a very curious specimen of their geographical knowledge in the year 1731.

Passing over many interesting points in the intervening period, we find the Commission and Instructions* of the unfortunate Baron de Dieskau, for the command of the French forces in North America, dated 1st March, 1755; and the private instructions to M. de Vaudreuil, who was appointed to succeed M. Duquèsne, as Governor General of Canada, on the 1st of April of that year.† On the 16th of August, we find Dieskau writing in good spirits, that he is about to set out against the English, “whose projects he hopes to derange;” and on the 14th of September following, he dates a letter to the minister, at the English camp on Lake “St. Sacrement,” in which he gives an account of his defeat, complains of the treason of his Indian allies, and speaks in the highest terms of General Johnson, whose conduct was what might be expected from “a gallant man, full of honor and sentiment,” and without whose interference, he says, he “would inevitably have been burnt to death by the Indians.”

M. de Vaudreuil, the Governor of Canada, thought it necessary to review quite at length, the conduct of M. Dieskau, in a despatch to the Minister, of 25th of September.‡ This letter, with those of the Chevalier de Montreuil, give us very important details of the expedition; and an imaginary conversation in the Elysian Fields, between Marshal Saxe and Baron Dieskau,|| in which the latter tells his own story of his defeat, will be read with the greatest interest. It may here be stated, that Baron Dieskau was sent prisoner to New York, and from thence to England, where he resided, at Bath, in 1757, and 1758, in great pecuniary distress; and was finally exchanged at the peace of 1763.—

* Paris Doc., Vol. 11, p. 34.

† Paris Doc., Vol. 11, p. 47.

‡ Paris Doc., Vol. 11, p. 125.

|| Paris Doc., Vol. 11, 188.

On the 1st of March, 1756,* the Marquis de Montcalm received his commission as Commandant in Canada, in place of Baron Dieskau. On the 28th of August following, this gallant and brave soldier, writing to the minister the details of the capture of Oswego, speaks in no very flattering terms of the conduct of the British garrison there, and says that the “transplanted English are not the same as the English of Europe;” and in reference to the conduct of the Indians, observes, that he “cannot dissimulate that there was a little pillage, which had to be tolerated. It is difficult to hinder 300 savages and 1500 Canadians making a quarry.”

In the succeeding year, the details of the French operations on Lakes Champlain and Horikan, occupy a large space. On the 15th of August, 1757†, Montcalm writes to the minister an account of the attack on Fort George, and its surrender; and adds that “he cannot conceal that the capitulation has, unfortunately, suffered some infractions on the part of the savages.” It need scarcely be added, that the correspondence of M. M. de Vaudreuil and Montcalm with the French Government, and with the British Generals, on this subject, is of the greatest interest; and will be read with avidity by the historian, as well as by those who have been charmed (and who has not?) with the brilliant and thrilling narrative in the “Last of the Mohicans,” and the additional interest that has been thrown around this story of our border wars, by the genius of one of the most gifted of the sons of our State.

The remaining volumes of the “Paris Documents,” from 1758 to 1763, are filled with official details of the gradual decline of the French influence in North America, and of the advance of the British to supremacy. We have long despatches from M. M. de Vaudreuil and Montcalm, filled with recrimination. The Governor General blaming Montcalm for not fulfilling his instructions, and doing more; and the Commandant reflecting, in turn, upon the Governor, for

* Paris Doc., Vol. 12, p. 26.

† Paris Doc., Vol. 13, p. 218.

not furnishing the requisite supplies of war. Gloomy accounts of the wretched situation of Canada, arising out of the scarcity of all kinds of provisions, and the distresses consequent on a war in which the militia of the country were forced to neglect their fields and harvests. Montcalm's foreboding letters to the minister—the disparity of his forces, as compared with those of the English—but his unconquerable determination to uphold the honor and glory of his King, to the last extremity. The details of the last brilliant effort of the brave French warrior, against the no less gallant English General, and of the fall of both leaders before Quebec—of the surrender of the city, followed by that of Montreal—and of the final triumph of the Red Cross of St. George over the banner of the Bourbon.

The documents obtained in the British archives, though far greater in number, and, perhaps, in some respects, of higher intrinsic value than those procured in Holland, and in France, must be passed by, without review. It would indeed, be impossible, at present, even to glance, satisfactorily, at the contents of some forty-seven folio volumes, of the character of those which compose the "*London Documents*," embracing a period of one hundred and sixty eight years, from 1614 to 1782, and including the official correspondence of the Governors of New York, from Nicholls to Robertson, with the authorities at Whitehall.

GENTLEMEN,—On the 20th day of November, 1804, a few of our citizens "being assembled in the Picture Room of the City Hall, in the City of New York, agreed to form themselves into a society, the principal design of which, should be to collect and preserve whatever may relate to the Natural, Civil, or Ecclesiastical History of the United States, in general, and of this State, in particular; and appointed Mr. Benson, Dr. Miller, and Mr. Pintard, a committee to prepare and report a draft of a constitution." At a subsequent meeting, a constitution for the "NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY," was proposed, and adopted, and the Institution formally organized. Two of its projectors, (the

Rev. Dr. MILLER, and our late President, Mr. STUYVESANT,) yet survive ; and it was but a few weeks ago, that we were called upon to pay a last tribute of respect to the venerable PINTARD—that “perfect chronicle of the olden time,”—as one of our honored members, who assisted to bear his pall, most felicitously described the early, zealous, and constant friend of our Institution.

The motives which led to the foundation of the Society—whose fortieth anniversary we now celebrate—were such as address themselves, at once, to the best and noblest feelings of our nature. These motives were patriotism and philanthropy—a sense of “what is due to ourselves, to the memory of our predecessors, and to the respect of posterity ;” and we have the proud satisfaction of knowing that the approval and liberal patronage of our fellow citizens, has followed the efforts of the Society. From a small beginning, has resulted a noble institution, whose beneficial influence has already been felt, and will continue to be felt, with increasing effect, as our State grows in years and empire.

Our objects are in progress of successful accomplishment. Many valuable manuscripts, relating to our history, in the possession of those who, perhaps unwilling to trust them to private hands, cheerfully confided them to the custody of a Society, incorporated by our Legislature, and recognised as a State Institution, have been rescued from the dust and obscurity of private repositories, and are preserved on our shelves for the benefit of our fellow citizens. Our noble Library, one of the richest perhaps, in the country, in works of an historical character, is a monument of the munificence of the State, and of the liberality of individuals. The State Historical Agency, the results of which we have just been noticing, is, emphatically, the offspring of this Society. The prescient mind of Clinton, then our Vice President, suggested, as long ago as 1814, the importance of an investigation of European archives, for the purpose of procuring those materials for history, which our own State Records could not furnish ; and happy in one respect,

at least, would it have been, if the enterprise, just now completed, could *then* have been carried into execution. The papers of the West India Company were then in existence ; and might, perhaps, have now been in our possession. But the circumstances of the Society were such for some years, as to prevent any direct effort being made to obtain the favorable consideration of the Legislature in regard to this subject ; and it was not until the month of April, 1838, that a memorial was prepared by the Society, and presented to our State Government, praying the State to undertake for the public benefit, an enterprise, which the Society, of their own means, were unable to effect. The importance of the object was appreciated by the members of an enlightened Legislature ; and at the session of 1839, an act was passed, with great unanimity, authorizing the appointment of an Agent " to visit England, Holland, and France, for the purpose of procuring, if possible, the originals, and if not, copies, of all such documents and papers in the Archives and offices those Governments, relating to, or in any way ~~effecting~~ affecting the Colonial or other History of this State, as he may deem important to illustrate that History," and directing that the documents, when procured, be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State, subject to the use of the State Historical Society.

Another important result of the influence and exertions of the Society, is the publication, by the State, of a series of valuable records, including the Journals of the New York Provincial Congress and Convention, together with the proceedings of the Committee] of Safety, from May, 1775, to the adoption of the State Constitution, and the close of the Northern Campaign in 1777 ; which had for a long time remained almost inaccessible, in our State Archives.

In the short history of our existence as a Society, we find much cause of congratulation and abundant encouragement for future exertion. We have done much ; but there is much before us yet to accomplish.

Happily founded in the Metropolis of our Country, our

influence should be as extended as the limits of our land. In this view, the recent provision incorporated into our Constitution, respecting the election of *Corresponding Members*, in the various Counties of the State, &c., is regarded as of great importance. The older Counties, Albany, Ulster, Dutchess, and others, possess, in their Clerk's offices, abundant materials for the illustration of their local History ; and indeed, there is scarcely a village within our territory, that may not contribute something toward the stock of materials from which the history of our State is to be compiled. This is a point of great importance—one in which every intelligent inhabitant of the State may well feel an interest. Individuals of liberal feelings and education, in the various towns and villages of our State, in correspondence with our Society, will be able to effect much. They may, and we hope will, become valuable contributors to our Institution. Besides exploring and bringing to day the information buried in their local Archives, (and this may very easily be done by public-spirited members, resident in our county towns,) they may procure the deposit of family papers, of rare books and pamphlets, in short, of a mass of material, whose permanent preservation and general usefulness would be guarantied by its being in the possession of this Society ; and they may, in the words of our Committee, “collect, with great ease, local reminiscences, only existing, perhaps, at present, in the memories of aged persons, whose places will soon be vacant, local statistics, and topographical descriptions, and minutiae of counties, cities, towns, and villages, which, however trifling they may appear, will materially assist the future Historian of New York.”

Another subject of general importance, will, no doubt, receive the attention of the Society. The Archives of our State, in the Office of the Secretary, at Albany, though of inestimable value, it is to be regretted, are not in a condition to be as generally useful as they ought to be. The existing Colonial Records are only partially arranged in volumes ; while a vast mass of papers yet continues, as it has lain for years, tied up in bundles, and without order.

To render our State Historical Records of the greatest utility, they should be carefully and properly arranged ; bound up into volumes, catalogued, and the catalogue printed. This is the plan adopted in reference to the Documents of the Agency. A catalogue, in which every paper, with its date, and a reference to its contents, and to its page in the volume, will be accurately indicated, is now in course of preparation ; and will be submitted to the proper authority, as an appendix to the final Report of the Agent. By means of this catalogue, every paper in the collection can be, at once, designated and found.

Until such a measure is adopted in reference to our existing Colonial Archives, the public can never know what we have, or the value of our Records ; and it is not to be doubted that the influence of the Society will again be efficiently exerted in favor of a measure which must, we trust, commend itself to the good will and approbation of the Legislature.

Such, Gentlemen, are our objects, and such are some of the results that have followed our exertions. And, it would, indeed, seem almost superfluous to address, to this audience, any remarks to enforce the propriety of collecting and preserving, with pious care, every memorial tending to illustrate our history, every Document "that may illuminate the obscure, explain the doubtful, and embalm the memories of the good and great." Yet, enlightened and universal as has been the approbation that has sustained our exertions, and cheered our progress, there may, possibly, be some among our citizens, disposed to weigh Dollars against Documents, and utter a cold and calculating *Cui-bono*?—Why this ransacking of old cupboards for dusty documents ? Why this tender care of old, worm-eaten papers ? Why this resuscitation of "rubbish" ?

To such—if such there be—we hold but one language—we make but one reply. Because we love our country.

And why do we love our country ? It is, because we live in it—are part and parcel of it—rise or fall with it—are great, or are unimportant, as our own land is great, or is of

little esteem. Whatever, therefore, tends to elevate that country in our estimation, and in that of the world, tends to strengthen Patriotism. And what more effectually tends to this, than the possession of a perfect body of annals? Pride of a virtuous ancestry, in individuals, if not inordinate, is a noble feeling. In our own Republic, freed from all selfish considerations, and shorn of all false and extrinsic influence, it becomes a talisman which often preserves its possessor from yielding to a temptation to sully an unspotted name; and is often an incentive to a generous emulation of the deeds of a forefather. The annals of a State are but the records of its aggregate families. The more rich, the more full, the more illustrious these annals, the stronger and more binding will be the ties that connect the citizen with his State. Every old Document rescued, every memorial preserved, every scrap added to our Records, is an additional link in the chain that binds us to our country.

These sentiments are not new or original with us. Europe has long ago, in effect, adopted them; and the jealous care with which the archives of the Monarchies of the old world are now preserved, is an example which the Republics of the new, may well and safely follow.

A late British Historian,* in an elaborate work on the French Revolution, speaking of our country, took occasion to say "*So wholly regardless are they of Historical Records, or monuments, that half a century hence, its History, even of these times, could only be written from the Archives of other States.*" This contemptuous sneer at our lukewarm Patriotism, has already, in part, been nobly answered by the enlightened statesmanship of our modern Legislatures. Be it our proud duty to rescue ourselves, entirely, from such a stigma, and vindicate, before the world, the self-respect of our State. Let us show to the nations of the earth, that though in her days of youth and feebleness, when struggling for existence, the Republic may, have postponed, to a "more

* Allison.

convenient season," the performance of a solemn obligation, she has not, in her time of power and greatness, been unfaithful to her honor, or indifferent to her fame.

Youth is, proverbially, a season of thoughtlessness. The child, careless, and indifferent to the future, often destroys without reflection, what he in vain desires to replace in after years. To youth, antiquity has, generally, but little charm. The time-honored church where his fathers worshipped, has no sacredness in his eyes. The old-fashioned building must give place to the newest model. The venerable is ridiculous. Change—innovation—destruction—are rapidly effected. By and by, in after life, he begins to calm. He regrets the past. Memory takes him back to early scenes. He loves to dwell upon the recollections of his childhood ; and now, he would, in vain, recall all that he has heedlessly obliterated—all that it is too late to recover.

As with individuals, so with States. In the infancy of political existence, communities ever think of the present ; seldom of the future ; more seldom, yet, of the past. The wants of a young State are pressing ; and the present has claims which are always urgent, and which always fill the eye. If a present convenience should seem to require it, little heed is taken what destruction is effected. There is no time to think of posterity.

But as the State advances in years, she begins to look to futurity. She builds for all time. Need you examples ? Let me point you to our noble artificial river, which unites us to the Mediterranean seas of this broad continent, and bears to our doors the productions of the teeming West. And is that a work to benefit the present age alone ? And can their memories ever fade, whose capacious minds "grasped, in advance, the sum of its infinite benefits ?" And look nearer home, at that magnificent Aqueduct, that sends the sparkling waters gushing through our streets, bringing life and health to our population. And will not those who follow us to our graves, and their own mourners after them,

not thank the men of this age, for what they have done ? The stern and majestic ruins that frown over the desolate Campagna, are not more impressive monuments to the Emperor Claudius, than will the Aqueduct of New York be an enduring memorial of the far-reaching philanthropy of those who projected, and advocated, and completed our own noble work.

And these are the results of the calmer, more comprehensive policy of the maturer age of the State. And as years still roll on, the elements of social improvement assume forms of greater moral sublimity. The growing grandeur of our State elevates our characters as individuals, and we believe that "whatever causes the past, the distant, or the future to predominate over the present, exalts us in the scale of thinking beings."* And we have not yet to learn the lesson, that the richer a State becomes in historical associations and mementos, the higher spirit of patriotic pride does it excite in its inhabitants, and the stronger hold does it take upon their affections.

Let us then, one and all, join, heart and hand, in the noble duty of enriching the historical treasury of our State. There is scarcely one of our citizens, throughout its wide extent, who may not contribute his mite. Let those whose pursuits forbid active antiquarian research, give their countenance to the laborer in the field ; and contribute, of their substance, to support our Institution, and extend its influence. Let us seek out, and cherish, and preserve, every record of the past. Let us garner up the fragments that tell us of our forefathers' habits—the memorials of the days of old ; and let us not rest from our labors, till every repository has been ransacked—every document procured—every fleeting reminiscence collected—every gap in our annals filled—every deed of glory recorded—every virtuous name immortalized. And let there be no delay ! Time and accident are daily doing their work upon those decaying memorials, which, like the leaves of the Sybil, only increase in value,

* Dr. Johnson.

as they grow scarce and rare. Let our museums be enriched with the antiquities of our country. Let the mounds of the red man become more sacred in our eyes; and the names he gave our lakes, our rivers, our land, sweet and pleasant in our ears. Let us learn to look, with affectionate veneration, on the old-fashioned church. Let us love to trace our predecessors'

“Footsteps on the sands of time.”

Thus shall we all assist in a great and patriotic work—in the performance of a duty, which, as good citizens—as patriots—is among the most sacred and imperative we owe—to secure the deep and solid foundations of our early history, upon which its after superstructure is to rest. That superstructure, like the Pantheon at Rome, will stand

“Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime.”

The bright atmosphere of Truth will irradiate its bold and noble proportions, encumbered by no meretricious ornament—heightened by no illusion of fiction.

We do not desire, nor are we permitted, “like the nations of Ancient Europe, to deduce our lineage from super-human beings, or to clothe the sage and heroic spirits who laid the foundations of our Empire, with the exaggerations and lustre of poetical invention.” “Our origin is within the limits of well-attested History.”* The discovery of America was nearly cotemporary with the invention of Printing. The exploration of the Hudson, and the settlement of New Netherland, happened when the Presses of Europe had already perpetuated the learning of the Old World. In the words of one of our own most brilliant writers,† “The spirit of the age was present, when the foundations of New York were laid.”

And what, though we may have no “College of Arms” to emblazon family honors? If the names of our good and our great, are not “recorded in the Registers of Heralds,”

* Kent.

† Bancroft.

we feel assured they will be engraven on the hearts of their countrymen. What, though we may have no crumbling ruins of aristocratic magnificence—no ivy-covered towers of ancient days—no Baronial Halls, even in their dilapidation, attesting the taste as well as the pride of feudal times—we will have—what no other nation has—written annals, mounting up to the very earliest period of our existence—fruitful in “recitals of heroic actions, and in images of resplendent virtue.” What, though we may have no museums, rich in the gorgeous trappings of chivalry—we will have the prouder memorials of the Fathers of the Republic.

There is, perhaps, no State in this great confederation, whose early history is fraught with themes of more varied character, exciting interest, romantic incident, or instructive lesson. That History, when it shall come, in after days, to be fully written, will exhibit, not, perhaps, the grandeur and obscurity which overshadow the early periods of the existence of the nations of the old world; not the romance, and legendary tales of chivalry, which crowd the annals of Europe. It will tell us the story of early adventure, and hardy effort, and the arduous circumstances that attended the “cradling” of our State. We will read of revolution succeeding revolution, and conquest following conquest—the jurisprudence of one country, substituted for the laws of another—the Pandects of Justinian giving way to the Institutes of Coke. As we turn over its pages, we will mark the progress of free sentiment; we will admire and venerate the characters of those whose Patriotism secured the liberties of the People, and transmitted to posterity the rights and privileges we now enjoy. It will exhibit New York as the PIVOT PROVINCE, on which, from its central position, turned most of the important movements and events which led to our Revolutionary struggle. It will show us our State as one vast battle-ground, for about one hundred and seventy years: exposed, with but little intermission, to the ravages of an enemy, and producing, all the while, men equal to the emergency. It will picture “our soil consecrated by the

blood of heroes, and by great and holy deeds of peace." It will sing—

—————“another golden age,
“ The rise of EMPIRE, and of arts,
“ The good and great, inspiring Epic rage—
“ The wisest heads, and noblest hearts.”*

And thus, in the progress of years—when a becoming veneration of the memorials of their fathers, growing with the growth of their State, and strengthening with the increase of her power, shall prompt our people to guard, with jealous care, every vestige of the past; when time shall have rounded the sharply-chiselled angles of our buildings, and antiquity shall have hallowed the structures which tell of the habits of their founders, or immortalize their names as the benefactors of their kind—shall the future inhabitant of this State, look with gratitude to the annals of her early days, and point, with exultation, to the records of her progress; and as his emulation kindles, and his patriotism burns, the proud feelings of the Roman will rise in his breast, as he exclaims, I, too, AM A CITIZEN OF NEW YORK!

* Berkeley.

N O T E S.

NOTE A.—PAGE 16, ANTE.

THE STATES GENERAL OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS, to all to whom these presents shall come, make known ; WHEREAS, Gerrit Jacobsen Witsen, formerly Burgomaster of the City of Amsterdam, Jonas Witsen, and Simon Monisen, owners of the ship named the *Fox*, whose Captain is John De With ; Hans Hongers, Paulus Pelgrom, and Lambrecht Van Tweenhuysen, owners of the two ships named the *Tiger* and the *Fortune*, whose Captains are Adriaen Block and Hendrick Corstiansen ; Arnold Van Leybergen, Wessel Schenck, Hans Claessen, and Barent Sweertsen, owners of the ship named the *Nightengale*, whose Captain is Thys Volkertsen, merchants of the aforesaid City of Amsterdam ; and Peter Clementsen Brower, Jan Clementsen Kies, and Cornelis Volkertsen, merchants of the City of Hoorn, owners of the ship named the *Fortune*, whose Captain is Cornelis Jacobsen May,—all now united together in one Company,—have reverently represented to us, that they, the memorialists, at heavy expense and great damage to themselves, from the loss of ships and other great risks, have, this present current year, with the aforesaid five ships, discovered and found certain new lands lying in America, between New France and Virginia, being the sea-coasts thereof, situated in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees, now named *New Netherland*, and praying, [that whereas we, in the month of March last, for the encouragement and increasing of Commerce, had published a certain general ordinance and grant to the effect that all those who from that time forward should discover any new passages, havens, lands, or places, should have the exclusive right of making four voyages thither, and that no other persons, directly or indirectly, should sail from the United Netherlands, to the said newly discovered passages, havens, lands or places, or frequent the same, until the first discoverer had himself made the four voyages within the time limited therefor, under penalty of the forfeitures in the aforesaid ordinance expressed, &c. &c.] that we should grant them a proper act to be passed in form, and in pursuance of the said ordinance ; Which being considered, and having heard, in our meeting, the pertinent report of the memorialists, concerning the discovery of the aforesaid new lands, within the aforesaid limits and latitudes, and of their adventures ; we have authorized and allowed the said memorialists, (at present united together in one Company,) and do hereby authorize and allow the same, exclusively, to navigate to the said newly discovered lands lying in

America, between New France and Virginia, the coast of which is situated in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees, now called New Netherland, [as is to be seen by the "figurative" map hereto annexed,*] for four voyages within the period of three years, commencing the first day of January, 1615, next ensuing, or sooner ; without that any other persons, directly or indirectly, shall be at liberty, out of these United Netherlands, to sail to, navigate to, or frequent the said newly discovered lands, havens, or places, within the said period of three years, under pain of confiscation of the ships and cargoes wherewith the same shall be attempted, contrary to this decree, and of a fine of 50,000 Netherland ducats, to the benefit of the aforesaid discoverers, &c. : Provided, nevertheless, that we are not to be understood, by these presents, as doing any prejudice to, or in any way curtailing our former grants and concessions ; and that our meaning further is, that in case any disagreements or differences should happen to arise or grow out of this our grant, that the same shall be decided by ourselves. Ordering and Commanding, for this purpose, most expressly, all Governors, Justices, Officers, Magistrates and Inhabitants of the aforesaid United Lands, to let the aforesaid Company, quietly and peaceably, use and enjoy the full effect of this our grant and concession, restraining from all opposition and hindrance to the contrary ; inasmuch as we consider the same to be for the service and benefit of the country. Given under our seal, and the attestation of our Clerk, at the Hague, the 11th day of October, 1614.

* [Translated from the original, in the " *Holland Documents*," in the Secretary's office, Albany, volume 1, page 47.]

NOTE B.—PAGE 20, ANTE.

12th FEBRUARY, 1620.

TO THE PRINCE OF ORANGE, &c.

Respectfully make known the Directors of the Company trading to New Netherland, situated between New France and Virginia, in the latitude of from 40 to 45 degrees, that they, the memorialists, by virtue of a certain general grant of the High Mighty Lords the States General, dated the 10th (27) March, 1614, as the discoverers and first finders of the said lands, have now made voyages thither for some years, and have also delivered to their High Mightinesses their written Report, with a map of the situation and usefulness of the said lands. And as the memorialists' grant has expired, so that, now, any one is free to trade there, they have, for the purpose of keeping the said trade in reputation, hitherto sent two ships thither, and some ships have also been sent by other merchants, not belonging to their Company. It now happens, that there is residing at Leyden a certain English Preacher, (Minister of the Gospel,) but who is well versed in the Dutch language, and who is inclined to go there to live ; assuring your memorialists that he knows that (the means how) over four hundred (400) families would

* A fac-simile of this map is in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany.

go with him there, as well from this country, as from England, provided that by the authority, and under the protection of Your Princely Excellency, and the High Mighty Lords the States General, they may be defended and preserved from the attacks of other Powers ; for the purpose of planting there the true and pure Christian Religion, and of converting the savages of those countries to the true knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith ; and also, through the grace of the Lord, and to the glory of the Government of this country, to Colonize and establish a New Empire there, under the order and command of Your Princely Excellency, and the High Mighty Lords States General. And your memorialists have also found by experience, that His Majesty of Great Britain is disposed to Colonize the aforesaid lands with English subjects, and with violence to make fruitless your memorialists' discoveries and possession, and also to deprive the Government of this country of their rights ; and probably the ships of this country which are now there, and which are ordered to remain there for the whole of this year, may be easily surprised by the English. Your memorialists therefore request and pray, that your Princely Excellency would be graciously pleased to take the foregoing matters into your favorable consideration, so that, for the preservation of the rights of this country, the aforementioned preacher and 400 families may be taken under the protection of this country, and that, provisionally, two ships of war may be sent to secure the aforesaid lands to this Government, since the said lands may be of great importance, whenever the West India Company shall be erected, having regard to the great quantity of wood proper for ship building, as well as other purposes, as is to be seen by the accompanying Report.

Upon all which, &c. &c.

[Translated from the original, in the "*Holland Documents*," in the Secretary's Office, Albany, volume 1, page 95.]

AN

ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATION

BY

THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

OF THEIR

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20th,

1844.

AN ACCOUNT, etc.

IN pursuance of a resolution passed by the New York Historical Society, at the stated Meeting, in October, 1844, arrangements were made for the celebration of their Fortieth Anniversary, on the 20th day of November, by the following gentlemen, comprising the Executive Committee.

The Hon. ALBERT GALLATIN, LLD.

WILLIAM B. LAWRENCE,
THOMAS DE WITT, D. D.,
CYRUS MASON, D. D.,
FREDERICK DE PEYSTER,
GEORGE FOLSOM,
JOHN JAY,
GEORGE GIBBS,

PROSPER M. WETMORE,
Hon. GULIAN C. VERPLANCK,
EDW. ROBINSON, D. D.,
ALEX. W. BRADFORD,
JOHN R. BARTLETT,
HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT,
ERASTUS C. BENEDICT,

On Wednesday, the twentieth of November, at five o'clock in the afternoon, the Society met at the Historical Rooms, in the University of the City of New York, when the Chair was taken by the President, the Honorable ALBERT GALLATIN, supported by the Vice Presidents LAWRENCE and DE WITT.

General WETMORE, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, introduced to the President and the Society, the distinguished guests who were present by special invitation among whom were the Honorable JOHN QUINCY ADAMS; General ALMONTE, the Mexican Minister; the Honorable

THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN ; Colonel BANKHEAD, U. S. A. ; Rev. Dr. BETHUNE, and Delegations from the following Scientific and Learned Societies. The Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, Rev. Dr. Codman, Rev. George E. Ellis, and the Rev. Alexander Young, representing the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ; the Hon. Thomas Day, and others, representing the CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ; General Tallmadge, representing the AMERICAN INSTITUTE ; Hon. William B. Reed, from the PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ; Mr. Samuel M. Burnside and others, representing the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY. Letters were received from the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, the MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, the NEW YORK LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, and the Historical Societies of MAINE, RHODE ISLAND, and GEORGIA, the latter of which had appointed JOHN JAY, Esq., of New York, to represent it on the occasion.

A report from the Executive Committee, was presented upon the nominations referred to them, and the gentlemen named therein, having been duly elected, and new nominations having been offered,

The Society adjourned to the Church of the Messiah, in Broadway, where, after a prayer by the Rev. Dr. DE WITT, the Oration was delivered by JOHN ROMEYN BRODHEAD, Esq., the Historical Agent of the State of New York, to Holland, England, and France. On the conclusion of the Oration, which was received with loud applause, the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. MILNOR, and the Society and their guests proceeded to the New York Hotel, and were received in the Drawing Rooms, by the following gentlemen composing the

COMMITTEE OF RECEPTION.

CYRUS MASON, D. D.,
DAVID C. COLDEN,
J. W. BEEKMAN,
FREDERICK DE PEYSTER,
HENRY E. DAVIES,

GEORGE FOLSOM,
ARCHIBALD RUSSELL,
TOWNSEND HARRIS,
CHARLES F. HOFFMAN,
JOHN JAY.

S T E W A R D S.

PROSPER M. WETMORE,
BENJ'N. R. WINTHROP,
JOHN R. BARTLETT,
GEORGE GIBBS,
HENRY G. STEBBINS,

ERASTUS C. BENEDICT,
ALEX. W. BRADFORD,
JOHN T. VAN ALEN,
JOHN BIGELOW,
ABRAHAM M. COZZENS.

At eight o'clock, the company, to the number of two hundred and fifty, preceded by the officers and guests, entered the large saloon, and sat down to dinner, the Hon. Mr. GALLATIN presiding, supported by Mr. William B. Lawrence, Hon. Luther Bradish, Hon. B. F. Butler, Chief Justice Jones, and Hon. Philip Hone, as Vice Presidents. Before the conclusion of the dinner, Mr. GALLATIN left the Chair, which was taken by Mr. LAWRENCE, and after the Rev. Dr. DE WITT had returned thanks, Mr. LAWRENCE rose and said,

Gentlemen—Those to whom the preparation of this repast has been confided, have omitted one of the duties usually deemed incumbent on such occasions. Aware that they were acting for a Literary Association, and that the responses of the honored individuals whom they had addressed, promised the attendance of gentlemen eminent for historic research, and distinguished as statesmen and scholars, they supposed that they might well leave to the company themselves, the selection of the topics, on which to interchange friendly salutations. I am, therefore, charged with no formal toasts. There is, however, one sentiment, which, on this occasion, cannot be omitted, and which I am instructed, as the organ of the Society, to present.

Gentlemen—This Anniversary recalls to us those who, forty years ago, conceived the project of an Association, for preserving whatever might tend to illustrate the history of our State and Country, and whose incipient proceedings have, this day, been sketched for you in that instructive and eloquent address, to which we have all listened with so much gratification.

Gentlemen—It has been remarked by more than one Historian, that our national origin differs from that of all the people of antiquity, in that we do not look for the founders of our Empire in the fables

of Gods and Goddesses. But though we cannot claim for them any supernatural origin ; though they were not miraculously nurtured, like the founders of the great Roman Commonwealth, yet no people can refer to ancestors of whom they have more just reason to be proud. What is true of our national forefathers, is emphatically so of the founders of this Society.

Of the eleven individuals who first met to form this Association, only two survive—the distinguished Divine, who first projected a plan of a History worthy of our State, and whose absence is excused in a letter breathing the same spirit with which he was actuated near half a century since, and one of our late Presidents, whose name is itself an historical reference to our Dutch origin, and to the virtues of the worthiest and most distinguished of the Governors of New Netherlands.

But, Gentlemen, if we recur either to the list at the first meeting, or of those who attended at the organization of the Society or of its earliest officers, there is not an individual of whom we may not properly boast—eloquent Divines, distinguished Scholars, eminent Professors of the Healing Art, learned Jurists, illustrious Statesmen.

But, Gentlemen, in the brief moments to which these remarks are necessarily confined, how can I allude, in appropriate terms, to a MASON and a HOBART, the great Controversialists of their day—the idols of their respective religious communities—to the unobtrusive merits of a HARRIS and a KUNZE, the latter of whom has left in the valuable collection of medals that constitute our cabinet, a permanent memorial of historical zeal.

Much less can I do justice to our first President—the venerable BENSON, whose right to preside over a Society of Knickerbockers no one can question. We find recorded as the first Vice Presidents, BENJAMIN MOORE, the respected Prelate of the branch of the Protestant Church to which he was attached, and BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON, a distinguished member of a family, of whom none were more illustrious in the annals of New York—a Jurist, who terminated his career as the associate of Marshall and Story. Among our founders also were the illustrious Statesmen and public benefactors, RUFUS KING, DE WITT CLINTON, and DANIEL D. TOMPKINS—themselves historical names of no ordinary lustre. I had intended to have alluded to one, so long identified with us—the patron of every thing connected with the Fine Arts, the Literature, or Science of our Metropolis, DAVID HOSACK, as well as to have considered how far

we have shown ourselves worthy of those who projected our Association, and to have referred to that enterprise, the successful result of which has this day been so happily portrayed ; but I am warned by the impatience naturally manifested by you all to indulge in the rich intellectual banquet, which I know to be in readiness for you on the part of our honored guests. I therefore conclude, and give you, in the name of our Association—

“ The 20th of November, 1804—The Birth-day of the New York Historical Society.”

Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Benedict, and Mr. Gibbs, submitted letters from the following gentlemen, in reply to the invitation of the Executive Committee, to attend the celebration :—

Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D.,	George Ord, Esq.,
Peter G. Stuyvesant, Esq.,	Hon. James Savage,
Hon. Martin Van Buren,	Hon. James Kent,
Hon. Chief Justice Taney,	Hon. Harmanus Bleecker,
Hon. Mr. Justice Story,	Rt. Rev. Manton Eastburn,
Ex-Gov. W. L. Marcy,	Hon. H. G. Otis,
Ex-Gov. Wm. H. Seward,	Hon. Ambrose Spencer,
Hon. Silas Wright,	Alonzo Potter, D.D.,
Hon. Millard Fillmore,	Hon. J. McPherson Berrien,
Hon. George M. Dallas,	Leonard Bacon, D.D.,
William H. Prescott, Esq.,	Hon. Josiah Quincy,
Hon. Emory Washburn,	Hon. George P. Marsh,
Hon. John Davis,	J. Brodhead, D.D.,
George Bancroft, Esq.,	Hon. Greene C. Bronson,
Hon. R. H. Walworth,	Hon. Samuel Beardsley,
Rev. Charles W. Upham,	Wm. Johnson, Esq.,
Jared Sparks, Esq.,	Hon. F. C. Gray,
Hon. John Pickering,	Orville Dewey, D.D.,
Hon. Robert C. Winthrop,	Josiah Quincy, Jr., Esq.,
Commodore Jones, U. S. N.,	Brantz Mayer, Esq.,
Valentine Mott, M. D.,	Peter Force, Esq.,
	Hon. H. D. Gilpin.

The following letters were then read.

PRINCETON, Nov. 1, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR: I feel much honored by the kind invitation to attend the Fortieth Anniversary of the New York Historical Society, on the 20th instant, which reached me two days ago.

I have not forgotten the deep interest, which I took in the formation and the labors of your Society, as one of its original members; nor the earnest desire which I have cherished, from a period still more remote, to contribute my mite toward the elucidation of the early history of our beloved country.

When Mr. Brodhead went to Europe, as the Historical Agent of the State of New York, I took the liveliest interest in his mission, and looked forward to his return and to the result of his labors, with high anticipations, both of profit and pleasure; and when I heard of his arrival, and of the ample store of historical records which he had brought with him, I felt an ardent desire to see him, and to listen to the report of his rich acquisitions.

You may well suppose then, that few things could give me more pleasure, than to accept of your kind invitation, and to be present on an occasion so well adapted to instruct and gratify one, whose predilections and pursuits have ever been such as mine.

It is, therefore, with unfeigned regret, that I feel myself constrained to decline being present on the occasion which I am invited to attend. But being now in the seventy-first year of my age, laboring under many of the infirmities which usually attend that time of life—my health having been extremely delicate, and repeatedly interrupted during the last twelve months, and the season of the year being one in which variable and trying weather is to be expected—I am afraid to leave home, and must deny myself the great pleasure, which a compliance with your request would afford me.

Sincerely hoping that the contemplated meeting will prove auspicious, and eminently conducive to the best interests of the Society which you represent; and begging that my most respectful and fraternal salutations may be presented to the honored members of your Committee and Society,

I am, my dear Sir, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MILLER.

ERASTUS C. BENEDICT, Esq., Secretary.

NEW YORK, Nov. 1st, 1844.

SIR: I have the honor of acknowledging the compliment extended to me by yourself and the other members of the Executive Committee of the New York Historical Society, inviting me to attend the exercises contemplated by them to take place on the 20th instant, being the Fortieth Anniversary of the Society.

I accept, Sir, with great pleasure, the invitation,

And with high respect, have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obd't serv't,

P. G. STUYVESANT.

CAMBRIDGE, Nov. 9, 1844.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to attend the Fortieth Anniversary of the Historical Society of New York, on the 20th instant. It reached me only on this day. It would afford me the most sincere pleasure to be with you on such an occasion, so interesting, so instructive, and so highly to be appreciated. But my judicial and other engagements interpose an insuperable bar to the enjoyments of such an occasion.

I look upon the efforts of your Society as of great importance to our common country, and, in connection with the other Societies of a like nature in other States, as destined to furnish an ample means for a true and worthy history of the foundation and progress of the Colonies which so gloriously achieved the independence of the Republic. Mr. Burke beautifully expressed the true object of such Societies when he bestowed his high praise upon those antiquaries whose duty and whose pleasure it was to remember the forgotten.

Yours,

JOSEPH STORY.

LINDENWALD, Nov. 15, 1844.

GENTLEMEN: I have delayed my acknowledgements for your polite invitation to attend the celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the New York Historical Society, in the hope of being able to enjoy that pleasure: I regret, however, to inform you that it will not be in my power to be with you.

Be assured that no one takes more interest in the success of a Society which has already done so much good, and which, under its present direction, promises still greater utility.

Your obedient servant,

M. VAN BUREN.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 16th, 1844.

SIR: The business in our Supreme Court has unexpectedly, and I must say provokingly, taken a direction which compels my constant attendance during the ensuing week. I am, therefore, obliged to forego the very great pleasure I had promised myself in being present at the Fortieth Anniversary of the New York Historical Society, on Wednesday next. I regret this the more, as I shall not only be debarred hearing the discourse of Mr. Brodhead, but precluded from an anticipated enjoyment in an intercourse, however short, with Mr. Gallatin.

With great respect, I am, Sir,

Your most ob't serv't,

G. M. DALLAS.

BOSTON, Nov. 18, 1844.

DEAR SIR: I regret very much my inability to join in your celebration to-morrow; the more so from my regard to the indefatigable and persevering agent of

your State, whom you have selected as your orator. The ship in which he returned was more richly freighted with new materials for American History than any that ever crossed the Atlantic; and as a member of your Society, I claim to share in the just expression of satisfaction, that so much has been accomplished towards illustrating the annals of a State, which, from its central position, connects directly with its own soil almost all that is of the deepest interest to the Union. I cannot but hope that the fruits of Mr. Brodhead's most successful research will awaken general attention, and by exciting the emulation of other States, and of the country collectively, will not fail to stimulate inquiry, till we shall have among ourselves all that remains in European archives, commemorating the wisdom or the heroism of our fathers.

Very truly yours,

GEO. BANCROFT.

—

BUFFALO, Nov. 13, 1844.

SIR: I am honored by the receipt of your note, conveying an invitation from the Executive Committee of the New York Historical Society, to attend the celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary on the 20th instant, and regret extremely that my engagements are such as to deprive me of that pleasure.

I feel a great desire to know the result of Mr. Brodhead's Mission to Europe, of which I have been induced to think most favorably from the publications of the press, and the fact that he is to address the Society, increases the desire which I have to be present. I trust, however, that his address will be published, and that I may have the pleasure of perusing it, if I cannot hear it.

With my best wishes for the continued prosperity and success of your institution, and my grateful acknowledgements for this notice of its Executive Committee,

I have the honor to be your fellow-citizen,

MILLARD FILLMORE.

—

CANTON, Nov. 4, 1844.

GENTLEMEN: I am honored by your invitation to attend the celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the New York Historical Society, on the 20th inst.

I regret that engagements of a controlling character will render it impossible for me to visit the city at the time of your proposed celebration. Otherwise, the instruction I should anticipate from the discourse of Mr. Brodhead, and the opportunity of being honored by a personal acquaintance with the members of the Society, would induce a ready acceptance of your kind invitation.

With great respect, I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SILAS WRIGHT.

—

BOSTON. Nov. 1, 1844.

DEAR SIR; I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the invitation to meet the members of the New York Historical Society, at the celebration of their

Fortieth Anniversary, and assure you, it would give me great gratification to make one of the assembly, and to partake of the feast of reason, which the orator is to furnish and the more substantial repasts in the evening. But my engagements are such that it will not be possible.

I pray you to present my acknowledgements to the Society.

And believe me, with much respect,

your obedient servant,

W. H. PRESCOTT.

AUBURN. November 7th, 1844.

GENTLEMEN: The Anniversary of the New York Historical Society would, under any circumstances, be attractive. The few and far between instructions I have received from the venerable head of your committee, constitute some of the most pleasing memories which revisit me. I have been accustomed to regard your Orator, Mr. J. Romeyn Brodhead, as one who was to interweave his own name with the fame of New York as her first historian. It would therefore be a rare pleasure to see him open before your respected Society, the literary treasures he has so carefully gathered in Europe. But my engagements will not permit so great an indulgence.

Accept, gentlemen, my thanks for your kind remembrance, and believe me, very respectfully and sincerely,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 15. 1844.

SIR: My absence from home and official engagements have prevented me from acknowledging sooner, the invitation of the New York Historical Society, to be present at the celebration of their Fortieth Anniversary, on the 20th of this month. It would give me much pleasure to be present upon an occasion of so much interest; but the duties of my circuit compel me to remain in Baltimore during all this month, and put it out of my power to accept the invitation. I beg you to convey to the Society my thanks for the honor they have done me.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. TANEY.

The lateness of the hour prevented the further reading of the correspondence. The Hon. Luther Bradish, late Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York, rose and said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—In the unexpected absence of the venerable President of this Society, I rise, by request, to attempt

the performance of a duty, as agreeable, certainly, as it is difficult—difficult to discharge in a manner befitting the occasion, and in terms worthy of its subject. I am, however, encouraged by the reflection, that your own feelings will supply what I may fail to express.

Along the current of Time, History now and then presents to us an individual in whose biography may be said to be written the history of his country. The presence of such an individual honors this occasion. So largely has that distinguished individual participated in the public affairs of his country, and so intimately identified has he been with the current incidents and events of the day, for more than half a century past, that his life may truly be said to comprise so much of his country's history. He has passed a long life, amidst stirring events, and almost exclusively in the able and faithful discharge of high official duties.

But the public services of that life have scarcely been more distinguished and useful than its teachings and example are instructive and encouraging both to public and private virtue. Nothing can more fully illustrate the truthfulness of that beautiful Orientalism, "Truth is mighty and will prevail." For, remarkable, and brilliant, and useful as have been the life and career of this rare individual, yet no patriotism, however disinterested—no integrity, however pure and incorruptible—and no wisdom, however exalted and unerring, have been able wholly to exempt him from the too ordinary fate of the great and the good, who devote their lives to the service of their country. Falsehood has sometimes been found hardy enough to misrepresent the actions of his life, and uncharitableness sufficiently cold and malignant to pervert and impugn his motives. But he has lived on, and Time, that great corrector of error, and sure rewarder of true merit, has at length nobly vindicated the former, and approved the latter. As it has rolled on, prejudice has yielded before the majesty of public virtue ; the bitter waters have subsided ; and Truth and Justice have at length asserted their empire.

This venerable and faithful public servant—this truly great and good man—breaking through the mists of the momentary error and injustice of this our lower world, and rising toward that brightness and undisturbed serenity and rest, to which all his life has tended : he now, on the verge of two worlds, presents the rare and remarkable example of one, who already in his life-time enjoys, in regard

to himself, the impartial judgement of posterity, and the just awards of future History.

But I detain you too long. I know that your impatient feelings have run before me, and have already suggested the name of the distinguished individual to whom, in these few and very imperfect remarks, I have alluded. I therefore, without detaining you farther, ask you to drink with me, and standing, to the health of

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS—May the evening of his life be as tranquil and happy, as its dawn and meridian have been honorable and useful.

MR. ADAMS replied:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—If I do not sink under the honor that has been conferred upon me by the observations of the gentleman who has just closed his remarks, it is not because I do not feel the want of support. They are observations on which it becomes me to be silent. But if there is any part of those observations to which it will be excusable for me to make any reference on this occasion, it will be that part in which the gentleman has referred to circumstances in my life, not by any means peculiar to me, but belonging to the condition of all men, of every description and character: poets, orators, statesmen, warriors, all, all who have acquired the notice of the age in which they have lived.—And these are the effects I have suffered from the tongue of slander. With these brief observations on that point, (for I have seen enough in this assembly to convince me that brevity is considered an essential requisite on this occasion,) I will say, that in relation to these circumstances I not only appeal to and regard the opinions of my compatriots of this age, but I appeal to the great object and end of this Society, and of all other similar Societies throughout this country. That end and object is to collect great historical truths: and they are the instruments and agents—and it is their great honor and glory—they are the great instruments and agents of procuring the triumph of truth over slander. The gentleman here by my side has enumerated a number of gentlemen who were the original founders of this Institution. They all deserve their reward. And I beg leave here to introduce the name of a man who was indirectly the founder of this Society, and of all these Historical Societies, indirectly, throughout the

country. He was a man of whom the country may be justly proud. I mean Jeremy Belknap. He was the founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and all similar Societies. He was the Pastor of a small Congregation in New Hampshire ; and he wrote the History of New Hampshire, a work that has no superior for its truthfulness or general value ; and of whom and his History a distinguished French traveller* a man, conspicuous in his own age, though unfortunate in his aim—said : “ he was the Author of the precious History of New Hampshire.” He also wrote the first volumes of American Biography ; and was the author of a Collection of Hymns and Psalms, that is still used in many parts of Massachusetts, and which has improved the poetry and literature of those who use it. It is but a short time since, sir, that the Massachusetts Historical Society celebrated her 50th Anniversary. Since her advent, these Societies have sprung up in Connecticut and New York, and Maryland, and Kentucky, and Georgia, and other States. These are of immense importance to the citizens of those States wherein they are located ; and if any of you suffer under the shafts of calumny, rely on these Societies to procure the triumphs of truth for your satisfaction in after times. I have not time here, Mr. President, to allude to the importance of Historical Societies. They must be regarded as the most useful Institutions upon earth. When we go back to the discovery of this country, by Columbus, and then come down to the present day and review the history of that period, it will be found to be a mere progression of the condition of man upon earth. I will request of you, gentlemen, to be excused from any further observations, and to be allowed to conclude with this sentiment :

“ AMERICAN HISTORY—Of the Past, commenced with heroic enterprise ; of the Present, progressing hand in hand with human improvements ; of the Future, may it fulfil the prophecy of Berkeley : ‘ Time’s noblest offspring is the last.’ ”

Hon. B. F. BUTLER, one of the Vice Presidents, then rose and said, that the very agreeable duty had been assigned to him of bringing to the notice of the company, their respected guests who represented, on this occasion, the State of Pennsylvania.

The interesting and important events connected with the early

* Brissot de Warville.

history of that great Commonwealth, (said Mr. B.) are so numerous, that in venturing even partially to allude to them, it is somewhat difficult to confine one's self within the limits appropriate to an occasion like the present. Her founder, and the principles on which he proceeded, are without a parallel in the history of States. She had the honor to receive, in the spring-time of his life, and to retain among her citizens until his death, that American, whose fame, in both hemispheres, is second only to that of the Father of his Country. It was in her chief City that he commenced and completed those experiments which had won for him the brilliant eulogy, "*Eripuit cælo fulmen:*" those experiments which had led, in their further development, to the latest and most wonderful of our inventions. It was in Pennsylvania also that Geo. Washington first displayed, in the defence of Fort Necessity, and afterwards on the banks of the Monongahela, in the army of the ill-fated Braddock, those great and commanding qualities which marked him out, even at that early day, as the future Saviour of his Country. From the Capital of the same State, emanated that immortal Declaration, to which the illustrious father of the venerable Statesman who had just addressed them, so largely contributed; and there, too, had been perfected that greatest achievement of political wisdom, the Federal Constitution.

But not only was Pennsylvania thus highly honored by her connexion with great public events, but she had also equally strong claims to the notice of American History, in reference to the progress of Science and the Inventive Arts. Robert Fulton was a native, and until the age of twenty-two a resident of Pennsylvania; and he there commenced that application of his powers to practical science, which ultimately brought into general use those means of intercommunication which are now so closely uniting the most distant regions of the earth. The name and the services of Fulton are known in every quarter of the globe, and it were superfluous to dwell upon them here. My present object is rather to bring to your recollection the names and services of other Pennsylvanians, equally devoted to the same cause, but less fortunate and distinguished—an office which not only commends itself to every just feeling, but which falls within the appropriate limits of an Historical Society, and indeed is one of the noblest offices of History herself. I therefore remind you of THOMAS GODFREY, Inventor of the Quadrant, so useful in practical navigation, which the English

claim, (but claim without warrant) and the world uses, under the name of Hadley's Quadrant. I remind you of JOHN FITCH, who produced the model of a steamboat in 1784, and in 1788 exhibited her, in motion, on the waters of the Delaware. I remind you of OLIVER EVANS, who invented a steam-wagon in 1804, and who predicted, at that early day, that the time would come when people would pass in twelve hours from Philadelphia to New York, in steam carriages. The prediction has long since been realized, and more than realized: our guests from Philadelphia were brought here in five hours and a half! What further achievements of this sort will be accomplished on our Continent within the next forty years—what will then constitute the "*Ultima Thule*" of American intercommunication by means of Steam-cars and Steamboats, no one living can foretell. Mr. B said he must leave it to the members of the Society in 1884, to ascertain whether it was the Rocky Mountains or the Oregon; and he concluded by offering the following sentiment:

The memory of THOMAS GODFREY, JOHN FITCH, and OLIVER EVANS.—Pennsylvanians honorably identified with the history of Science, and the progress of Inventive Art and Social Improvement. Let History see to it that their names are not forgotten.

W.M. B. REED, Esq., of Philadelphia, responded:—

I return my sincere thanks for the honor you have done me in honoring the memory of the distinguished men of my native State. These are times when a Pennsylvania man ought to be very cautious in exposing himself where merited compliments are in circulation, and very grateful if he happens to receive one. I appreciate the delicate kindness of your distinguished Vice President, (Mr. Butler) in referring to our days of manly industry and honorable skill. But there is unhappily another chapter of Pennsylvania History, to which I may as well manfully refer, for, I am sure, no one now-a-days meets a Pennsylvanian, at home or abroad, without thinking of it. I refer to that which records our failure and neglect to pay our honest debts. It is the subject of just reproach. It is the source of deep and fearful conscientious upbraiding. It is not, Mr. President, the sneer of ribald eloquence from abroad which wounds our hearts. The time has been when bright shafts from the same rich quiver have been shot across the Atlantic, and fallen harmless

at our feet ; but then we were clothed in the bright armor of invulnerable virtue and integrity, and defied the point which national antipathy turned against us. Now, alas ! it is the sense of doing wrong which enfeebles our arm, and leaves us exposed to wounds from hands which once we scorned. There is not a breeze which comes across the ocean that is not freighted with the cries of widows and of orphans, complaining of the wrongs we have done them, and there is an echo here at home from sufferers amongst ourselves, that swells the bitter chorus of complaint which is sounding throughout the world at our neglect to do a simple duty.

But I trust this chapter of history is not concluded ; that the new illegitimate confederacy of repudiating States is breaking ; that the day of shameful regret is passing by ; and, though I speak with no prophetic confidence, and assuredly with no peculiar means of knowledge, yet, as a hopeful man, I will not conceal my belief that before very long the dishonor of Pennsylvania will be among the things gone by for ever. Pennsylvania has seen darker hours than these. No longer ago than yesterday, I read a letter written in 1781, by a citizen of Pennsylvania, in which he says : "The Assembly has just adjourned, and there is not, I assure you, money enough in the Treasury to pay a draft for £10." And yet in eleven years, many of them years of war, and all of them of perplexity, in eleven years, thanks to the beneficence of National policy, and our own self sacrifice, a building was raised in Philadelphia, on the corner-stone of which was truly written the highest public boast, "Pennsylvania happily out of debt."

And to no one, let me add, and hence my apology for introducing here matter apparently inappropriate—to no one was that generation of men more indebted for sagacious forecast and strict advocacy of sound public economy, than to one who was a stranger amongst us, a young man, the Representative in the State Legislature of a frontier county, *our* fellow-citizen then, your honored President now, ALBERT GALLATIN, of Pennsylvania. It may not be known to others as it is to me, that Mr. Gallatin's Financial Reports, made in the Pennsylvania Assembly in February, 1791 and 1792, laid the foundations of his well-earned reputation. I am most happy of the occasion thus historically to allude to them.

Permit me, Mr. President, to say one word, and but one, as to the associations which should bind New York and Pennsylvania together. They are curious, and far from uninteresting. Very

curious have been the changes which time has worked with us. Once, and not very long ago, we were the metropolis and you the country town. The idea of a Southern or Western trader coming to New York to buy his goods, was as preposterous as it now would be for one of your Indiamen to straggle into the Capes of the Delaware. In 1671, when George Fox travelled from Maryland to the Providence plantations, New York was a village of huts, not worth a visit, and Philadelphia was not at all. Within a century, as late as 1759, an intelligent Episcopal clergyman, of the name of Burnaby, published a book of travels along our seaboard, and thus sagaciously proclaimed his judgment on the distant future: "These colonies never can be united. They have too many sources of discord. New York and Pennsylvania always must be *rivals for the trade of New Jersey!*" Yet, within six years, a Continental Congress met here. In fifteen years common danger had especially united our two States. The streets of New York were filled with Pennsylvania volunteers coming to fight for you and for themselves, for the cause was a common one. The blood of Atlee, and Miles, and Hand, and Piper was freely shed at Flatbush and Gowanus. The last boat that crossed from Brooklyn Ferry on the night of the 29th of August, 1776, was filled with Pennsylvania soldiers. It was a Philadelphia officer who sent defiance to an overpowering enemy at Fort Washington. There is not a spot from Chaderton's Hill to Harlaem Heights, that will not attest the gallantry of Pennsylvania soldiers, fighting to rescue or to save New York. I hope, Mr. President, I may be pardoned for referring to these things. But there is rich comfort at this moment, when dishonor is weighing down my native State, in thinking and speaking of her days and deeds of unsullied renown.

One other word and I have done. There is a thought which the companionship of this hour suggests, a Philadelphia recollection which the presence of your venerable guest (Mr. Adams) brings proudly to my mind. It was in Philadelphia, whilst walking in the State House Yard, in a moment of dark perplexity, that John Adams first suggested the name of George Washington as the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Revolution. And never, in additional honor to his name, let it be forgotten, that it was John Adams who made John Marshall Chief Justice of the United States.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me offer as a toast:

"The History of the *good* old times and its conservative influence. It will keep us one nation when every other link is broken."

PHILIP HONE, Esq., then rose and said—

History is a debt paid to our forefathers, to be reimbursed by our posterity. Individuals in all ages have assumed the task of paying this debt by instalments; but the duty of collecting the means, of providing materials for the historian, is more effectually performed by national and local institutions, where each member contributes his quota to the general mass of antiquarian riches, or contemporaneous information. Of this nature is the institution whose fortieth anniversary we are met to celebrate, and such are the objects of her younger sister, the "American Antiquarian Society of Massachusetts." It has honored us on the present occasion by sending a delegation to unite in our festivities, and it is made my pleasing duty to extend to them the right hand of welcome and fraternity.

This Society was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts, on the 24th of October, 1812, and has been ever since in successful operation. Its founder was Isaiah Thomas, one of those enterprising and public spirited men whose names adorn the pages of New England history. He was the first President, to which office he was annually elected until his death, which occurred in 1831, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. The edifice now occupied by the Society at Worcester, was erected at his private expense, and its library and cabinet are rich in his munificent benefactions. Nor should our Institution withhold its gratitude for a liberal bequest received from him, nor fail to do honor to his memory.

Isaiah Thomas was born in Boston, January 19th, 1749. Born a printer it might be said, for we are told he worked at his trade and was even a compositor at six years of age. "The Massachusetts Spy," was established by this youthful apostle of liberty in 1771, and, with the assistance of some of the whigs of the day, became a strong arm of the Revolution; its opposition to arbitrary power, soon made its patriotic editor obnoxious to the government, and he was compelled to remove his establishment to Worcester in 1775, where it has continued to the present time.

One of the objects of this distinguished association, besides such as are avowed by them in the beautiful quotation from Sir William Jones, viz: "Man and Nature, whatever is, or has been performed by the one, or produced by the other," would seem to have been the custody and preservation of the sacred flame, the beacon light

of the Pilgrims, which was first enkindled upon the altar of freedom in the "Old Bay State," which cheered and warmed the hearts of her sons at Lexington and Concord, and illumined the summits of Bunker Hill and Dorchester ; and right well has this duty been performed by the Incorporators and their Successors, and confidently may it be hoped that the flame will not be suffered to expire, whilst its charge is entrusted to such men as Everett, Story, and Davis, the present officers of the Society.

I call upon my brethren of the New York Historical Society to join in the following sentiment.

"The Antiquarian Society of Massachusetts, and the cherished memory of Isaiah Thomas, its founder."

Mr. BURNSIDE, of the American Antiquarian Society, responded as follows :—

I assure the Gentlemen of the Historical Society of New York, that the Society of which I am a member cordially reciprocate the kind regard manifested on this occasion, and are always glad to have an opportunity to pledge their co-operation in the great object of the Historical Society. In the Political, and, I am sorry to say, in the Religious and Moral world, too, parties exist, and in their struggle to obtain superiority much hostile feeling has been generated. But I thank God here is common ground on which all parties can unite for a common purpose. Coming as we all do out of the turbid atmosphere of political strife, to breathe the pure air of intellectual enjoyment, we can well realize this sentiment. In this we shall rejoice, that there is a common ground on which all can join in expressing their sentiments without fear of offending, or of calling out the angry feelings and oppositions of our fellow men.

As regards the lamented founder of our Institution, the gentleman who has just sat down, has but done him simple justice. I will only say that the late Isaiah Thomas furnished an example worthy to be followed by our young men. He started in life without funds, without the influence of friends, or the patronage of relatives, and by his own efforts raised himself to the honorable position he occupied at the close of his useful life. He was indeed the founder of his own fortune and distinctions. He left ample estates, which were distributed among benevolent and useful institutions. I have said that this is common ground, for we have but one object, and

that is the elevation of Man. Mr. Burnside then alluded in suitable terms to the position which the New York Historical Society held, and to the aid which it had lent to the Massachusetts Society in helping it on in its labors. There was one result, he remarked, which was secured by the mutual efforts of the Societies, which had not been noticed by the Orator of the evening. It is said that political parties are necessary to the security of our liberties. If so, then it is necessary that they should be under some controlling influence. Such an influence would be found in the existence of Historical Societies. Whatever party might be entrusted with the administration of their country, they cannot be unmindful that their actions will become the subject of historical narration, and if even a man under a reckless infatuation, should forget the high trust reposed in him, and prostitute it to serve the base objects of his party, he will find that history will have a bad tale to tell of him, and his name will descend to posterity in no enviable light. Whereas, on the other hand, they will have a high inducement in such Societies, to follow out their laudable ambition, and to aim only at the good of their country.

Mr. BURNSIDE closed by offering the following toast:—

“The Descendants of the Pilgrims, and of the Settlers of Manhattan—Fraud or misfortune divided their fathers into separate communities, a common country unites their children, by the ties of a common brotherhood, and as fellow-citizens of the Republic of Letters.”

Chief Justice JONES then said it was his duty to introduce to the kind regards of the company the Delegation of Connecticut, and what he had to say in the discharge of this duty, he would do in brief words. The State of Connecticut was emphatically a sister State. The ties which bound her to us were nearly as dear as those of nature. When the sons of New York and New England rose to burst asunder the bonds of the Parent Country, she came forward, and laying aside her prejudices, became as a brother in the glorious cause, and since then a co-worker in the great cause of civil improvement. After that bitter day had passed over, her young men came among the citizens of this State, and urged forward by their enterprise, the industry and energy which has since filled our ports with fleets of shipping, our docks with merchandise, and has sent the American Flag into every sea, and to every known

portion of the globe. It was the enterprise of the sons of Connecticut—a sort of new element infused into our Dutch steadiness—which has filled our State with villages and schools, and has made her what she is proud to be called—the Empire State. Wherever New England sent her sons, there too she sent learning and religion, and as she contributed to swell our wealth and greatness, so has she helped to elevate our moral and intellectual character. We have retained our Dutch character of prudence, but we have incorporated with it the enterprising character of New England.

Chief Justice JONES gave as a sentiment—

“THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT—The youngest in the field, but not the less efficient in the cause.”

Hon. THOMAS DAY, of Hartford, replied on behalf of the Connecticut delegation.

He thanked the Society in the name of the State and of the Society of which he was a member, for the manner in which the venerable speaker had alluded to them, and in which the sentiments had been received by those around him. Of the State he should say nothing, but for the Institution to which reference had been made, he would say that although of tender age, it was vigorous and promising. Soon after its birth it had gone asleep and had a nap for some years. When it opened its eyes, it was wide awake, and was not sleepy yet. Conscious of a sound constitution and vigorous health, it went to work, and what it had to do, it accomplished. He acknowledged that a word of encouragement from a superior Society was welcome; and again, in behalf of his Association, he tendered his warmest thanks for that kind welcome. As he felt himself physically incapable of sending his voice through the room, he concluded by giving

“ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES—Their course is onward and upward, let us give them a push and a lift.”

Mr. ADAMS rose and said—

I have just received a letter, Sir, from a gentleman whom I am not personally acquainted with. He requests me to present to the Society a Coin of Massachusetts, illustrative of the first history of that Colony. It is known by the name of the Pine-tree Shilling;

and it is highly interesting in many respects from its associations. It was a coin made by an act of that Colony in 1652 ; and the coining of it was an act of independence in itself, inasmuch as the making of coin at all in the Colonies was high treason by the laws of England. And yet with that law in full force, and living under it, they did make coin ; and that act authorizing the Colony to do it remained in force till my time ; for I have seen and passed those Pine-tree Shillings in the days of my boyhood. It is well known that in almost all European countries it is high treason for any but the Government to make coin ; and it is part of the history of Massachusetts that her people did, in the face of this, continue to make and emit this coin. And they continued to make it until after the restoration of the Stuarts, but always with this year of 1652 upon it, that they might not incur the penalty of the act. I concur with the gentleman who sends it, that it is an object worthy the acceptance of the Society. Although personally unknown to me, I have thought it my duty to present it to the Society in his name, and I hope that the letter will be read and the coin be accepted. And now I wish to say a few words more in relation to a subject that I ought to have touched upon when I was up before ; but the impression then upon my mind and feelings was so strong that the power of speech was almost taken from me. I ought to have spoken of your venerable President, and I could have wished to have spoken of him as though he was not present. I should have done so had he been here, and I have now a stronger impulse to make these observations than if he was present. I considered it a great honor when I received the letter inviting me to spend this day with your Society. I received a letter of invitation as many others did, and I appear here to-day in my individual capacity, and also as one of the delegates of five from the Massachusetts Society. To the letter which was sent me, your honorable President added a line saying, "*I shall be glad to shake hands with you once more in this world!*" Sir, if nothing else could have induced me, these words would have compelled my attendance here ; and I can conceive of nothing that would have prevented me. I have lived long, Sir, in this world ; and I have been connected with all sorts of men—of all sects and descriptions ! I have been in the public service for a great part of my life, and filled various offices of trust in conjunction with that venerable gentleman, Albert Gallatin. I

have known him half a century. In many things we differed—on many questions of public interest and policy we were divided—and in the history of parties in this country there is no man from whom I have so widely differed as I have from him. But on other things we have harmonized! And now there is no man with whom I more thoroughly agree on all points than I do with him. But one word more—let me say before I leave you and him—birds of passage as we are bound to a warmer and more congenial clime—that, among all the public men with whom I have been associated in the course of my political life, whether agreeing or differing in opinion with him, I have always found him to be an honest and an honorable man.

Hon. GEORGE FOLSOM offered some remarks of a highly complimentary character to the Mexican Minister, and gave as a toast—

“ANCIENT MEXICO—The classic soil of the “New World”—whose ruined cities and decaying temples, like the remains of Roman greatness, richly reward the researches of the scholar, and furnish pregnant themes for the contemplation of the philosopher and the philanthropist.”

General ALMONTE said in reply—Unable as I am to express my sentiments in a foreign tongue, I hope the Historical Society of the State of New York will excuse any omission on my part. I can only thank the gentleman who has named my country, and say in reply, I wish the prosperity of the Historical Society of New York; and I wish also that its diffusion of knowledge may extend, not only to the United States, but to the whole Continent of America.

JOSEPH BLUNT, Esq. said that the name of the State of Massachusetts was as dear to Americans, as that of Marathon was to the Grecians. Her purity of purpose and her heroic example, are traits in her history which she can as well be proud of now, as she was in the days of the Revolution. He proposed—

“MASSACHUSETTS—Her present history forms a proud comment on the glorious teachings of the past.”

Hon. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, of Salem, Mass., responded.

He said, he supposed he might have been excused, after the addresses we have all listened to with so much pleasure, and he begged gentlemen not to be alarmed for fear he intended to make a long speech. Mr. Saltonstall then spoke of the galaxy of honored men who formed the Massachusetts Historical Society ; and referring to the oration of Mr. Brodhead, expressed a desire that the example set by New York, would be followed, in the present halcyon days of peace, by each of the old States of the confederacy.

These Historical Societies were doing much to throw light upon the events of our early days ; and he desired to impress upon all, the importance of preserving the most trifling incidents, seemingly of merely local importance, as they all would eventually contribute to the perfection of our History.

Mr. Saltonstall then referred, in humorous terms, to the destruction of the Records of the Dutch West India Company ; and to the fact stated by the orator of the evening, of the purchase of the Island upon which this great city now stands, for the round sum of twenty-four dollars—a Dutch bargain—but one with which Jonathan himself, would, no doubt, have been vastly pleased.

He also referred to the strong tendency, which had always existed in Massachusetts, to independence, and to the formation of the General Courts and the issuing of writs always under the seal of the State and its name.

Mr. Saltonstall here referred to the peculiar history of the deposition of Sir Edmund Andros, by the Bostonians, on the news of the landing of the Prince of Orange in England, and the placing of Mr. Bradstreet in the Official Chair. Mr. Saltonstall alluded, in the most humorous manner, to the conduct of Elisha Cook, one of his own ancestors, from whom he derived his own democracy.

These things led to the Revolution and prepared the way for it, teaching the people to look to their rights, so that when the final question came on, they were ready to submit to no aggression, and this led to the glorious establishment of our rights. We have an advantage over all nations in being able to trace our history from the beginning. We have no fabulous age, but it has more romance than any which has ever been written. Mr. Saltonstall then referred to the first colonization and to the institutions of the adventurers in the May-flower. Harvard University and the school

system, were traced back to these adventurers—and he concluded with the following toast :

“ OUR ANCESTORS AND OUR POSTERITY—Whatever else we leave to the generations who are to follow us will be valueless, unless we transmit to them those principles of civil liberty—that determination to resist oppression—that veneration for Christianity and its institutions, and those free forms of civil government which we have inherited from our Fathers.”

PROFESSOR MASON now rose and said, the Committee of Arrangements were a little concerned, lest this celebration should pass off a real down-east affair. If Pennsylvania is called out, we have a speech in praise of Franklin and the elder Adams ; and, whatever topic is started, seems to waken up a New England spirit, and draws its illustration from that quarter.

We cannot deny, that most of us are descended from the Yankees, or are somewhat allied to them or dependent on them : but then we must remember what our own veracious and eloquent historian has recorded concerning us, namely : that when our Father Jonathan came to settle in New York, and found the Yankee name unpopular, he turned Dutchman, that is, he married a burghers' daughter. For the honor of our mothers, then, we must begin to draw a line, and claim for New York the labors and the honors of all our converted and adopted Dutchmen. Therefore, in behalf of the Committee, I now call that Dutch-looking gentleman, on the opposite side of the hall, though a native of this metropolis, to lay down his pipe, close his meditation, and speak something for the honor of the New York Historical Society.

DR. FRANCIS, being thus called upon, rose and said :—

I have been so recently *Polked*, that I feel hardly able to say anything, however memorable the occasion for which the Society is convened. But my case confirms the illustrious Baron Haller's view of life : his theory was, that there was within it a combination of two forces : the nervous power, and a *vis insita*. My nervous power is completely exhausted—I have a little of the *vis insita* left. The elaborate discourse which I have heard this afternoon from the State Delegate, (MR. BROSHEAD) has, however, proved so agreeable to my feelings, that aided by its influence I am enabled to say a few

words. I am satisfied that no individual could have performed the arduous and responsible duties assigned him better, if so well. The mission was intrusted to a gentleman who has discharged the trust in a way no less honorable to himself than confirmatory of the sound judgment of the distinguished Governor of the State by whom he was chosen.

From long association with the Historical Society of New York, I might at this time be justified in dwelling at some length on its early history ; but in so doing, I fear I should trespass too long on your indulgence. I however may remark, that the Society took its rise and was incorporated at a period in our political history of great excitement through the whole country. The administration of Jefferson is recognized by all as an important era in our nation's annals. New measures and new men ; personal prejudices, old attachments, novel theories ; these, and a thousand other circumstances, exercised the judgment and the political asperities of the people of that day, to an inconceivable extent. Now it was, that the sacred expositor of the pulpit adverted with unbecoming latitude to the crisis in the times : here we had one who craved attention to the direful calamity which threatened us, when the better to secure ourselves from the poison of infidelity and Tom Paine, it behoved the believer to secure his Bible somewhat after the manner of old Dr. Franklin's mother, lest the Book of Life should be blotted out : there, on the opposite side, was another, who told us that a republican population were not to be admonished by the precepts of a volume which had been ordered to be read in churches by his *Majesty's special command* : while a third in stentorian accents would close his clerical service with the fervent hope that the Goddess of Liberty, seated on Alpine heights, might ever watch over the destinies of the land favored by such a ruler as Jefferson, whose administration was emphatically declared the genuine essence of rational freedom, and whose excellence both of head and heart, as the preacher most vehemently averred, was *far superior to that of either of his predecessors*.

Most unquestionably these several views of the policy of a republican government, sustained by different individuals in different walks of life, awakened new desires, among all, the better to understand the story of our country's wrongs and the war of the revolution : added to which, the State of New York had noble facts in her trials for freedom, in her Indian warfares, in the incidents connected with the occurrences of the Stamp Act, and the Sons of Liberty ;

and in the elaborate discussions on the adoption of the Constitution. Beside all this, our city boasted as residents among us, of the venerable Chancellor Livingston, the inflexible George Clinton, Rufus King, Gouverneur Morris, C. D. Colden, her Hamilton and Jay.

Surrounded by materials of this nature ; observing how liable the most important public occurrences were to misrepresentation, and that our posterity would look in vain for a true record unless the preservative power of an Historical confederacy should be summoned in its behalf, like unto that which had for years signalized glorious Massachusetts, New York determined to adopt like measures for the same great end ; and a body of the distinguished men of forty years ago convened together in the Hall of that edifice where Washington was inaugurated President of the United States, and Trumbull's great National Portraits, ornamented its walls, and laid the foundation of this admirable Institution. Its incorporation by the legislature soon followed, and the bounty of the State to some extent was secured for its perpetuity.

The history of our library, (continued Dr. F.) is a curious one. Donations were at first our principal means of accumulation, and not a few of the most valuable works which it now possesses were of that number at that time. In 1812, when the war was declared, the entire collection of books and manuscripts was so inconsiderable, that one or two cart loads were all that we had to transfer from one place of safety to another, apprehensive that by invasion the enemy might possess the city. Shortly after this period we purchased the rare and valuable treasures of the late Rev. Timothy Alden, which embraced no small portion of the rarest productions of the press, the Plymouth Rock disquisitions and contiguous geography, Boston News Letter, Ames' Almanacs, the Magnalia and other works of like interest to the American Antiquary. We thought we were doing service to the mental progress of the country in bringing together as in a focus the offspring of its authors however widely scattered, or on whatever topic the intellectual acumen of our countrymen might be expended. Hence the library was then swelled in amount at least, by the Spelling Books, and Arithmetics, and Monitors, and School-master's Assistants ; and the catalogue of all things pronounced literary purposely designed to teach the young ideas how to shoot. The religious literature thus grouped together for the same purpose abounded in sermons, tracts on baptism, and church government, polemical disquisitions,

on divers topics, and in narratives of Indian conversions, and the progress of the missionaries. We justly boasted of the discourse of the Elder Gookin. Hymn Books for the better devotion of the various sects of theology were not overlooked ; it was argued they threw light on the advancement of religious belief ; and while Low, Searson, and Honeywood, (for at that time we had no Bryant, nor Hoffman, nor Willis, nor Wetmore, nor Morris, nor Halleck,) found a place among American bards, the improved translation of David's Psalms, by Joel Barlow of Connecticut, could not be rejected. This sturdy democrat, who had long ago chaunted, in no mean accents, the "Conspiracy of Kings," was found hardy enough to attempt a republican version of the divine emanation of the Royal Psalmist, the better to rear up the fabric of his country's greatness : How well he excelled in his patriotic efforts may be judged by a stanza.

" How glorious is our *President*
Who rules above the sky !
The people all with one consent,
Avow his *majesty*."

At this early day of the Library many works of high importance and now extremely rare, were obtained on the history of the American revolution. We are quite ample on that prolific subject. Of the vast number of travellers through the country from its earliest period down to the time of Jansen, and Bulow, Parkinson and Priest, a very great collection was made ; and if we abound in the productions of such libellous itinerants, it may be permitted to add, that we have also within our cases the sterling productions of the Jesuits and other old observers ; Purchas' Pilgrims, and the Baron Humboldt, and numerous other precious works of a like nature.

In works of American science and in the happier productions of American literature we gathered much for the future investigator. Topographical works on numerous districts of the country may be found recorded in the catalogue : and among the books we thought necessary for a library collection, were the histories of our Colleges, and the elementary treatises issued by their respective professors. We were not backward in adding to the number the Lectures on Rhetoric by the venerable man who now honors our meeting, the Hon. John Quincy Adams. The first Sermon preached in America ;

the first Medical Treatise on the American method of practice ; the first Inaugural Dissertation for the M. D., in our Colleges ; with innumerable others of such rarities are safely deposited with us. Adrian Vanderdonk, and Megapolensis, found ready admittance within our walls : the first a great lawyer and naturalist ; the second an eminent divine and doctor of physic ; and the head of the old Dutch and German doctors whose dynasty terminated with the life of the venerable Dr. George Anthon.

It deserves to be stated that our voluminous Congressional Documents and State Papers are not equalled by any collection elsewhere deposited. The State owes to our energies the ability of completing the publication of the important Journals of the Legislative proceedings of New York during an eventful period of the revolutionary contest.

In early periodical literature, none need say the library is barren. Whether in Magazines and Journals of a monthly issue or in the class of publications, denominated newspapers, our materials are so copious that scarcely an association in the land can bear competition with us. Bradford's Weekly Gazette, and Zenger's Weekly Journal, Rivington's Royal Gazette, and the old Daily Advertiser, Freneau's Time Piece, &c. are conspicuous as the most important for historical research. The newspaper press is endeared to the feelings of Americans by the strongest considerations of patriotism. Franklin, the Apostle of Liberty, more than a century ago published in a newspaper animadversions on the legislative enactments of Great Britain relative to the colonies. The free strictures on the administration of Governor Cosby and his council printed in the Weekly Journal of the City of New York, by John Peter Zenger, roused the energies of a whole people, and to use the language of Governeur Morris in a conversation with the speaker, "the trial of Zenger in 1735, was the germ of American freedom—the morning star of that liberty which subsequently revolutionized America." "Common Sense" first appeared in the columns of a newspaper during the days of peril, that tried men's souls, and the philosophical exposition and defence of the Constitution and the Union, which Hamilton, and Jay, and Madison published under the title of the Federalist, was first submitted to the people through the pages of a Gazette.

In fine, let the labors of the original promoters of this Society be considered with the successful results of the active intelli-

gence which has controlled its destinies for a number of years past, and the conviction will prove abiding, that our present collections are worthy of consultation by the highest minds in the land when accuracy of information and curious knowledge are demanded by the American Historian. Such was the opinion of that eminent individual whose zeal, talents, and impartiality in historical literature have secured to him the lasting gratitude of his countrymen: I allude to Jared Sparks, the biographer of Washington and Franklin. Indeed, I am almost daring enough to conjecture that even our intellectual Colossus, Daniel Webster, might augment in dimensions by a survey of our recondite treasures.

Were I not admonished by the lateness of the hour and too powerfully impressed with the assemblage of intellect which honors this evening's repast I might enlarge on some of the more prominent individual characteristics of those who, whilst living amongst us most honored our association, and whose final departure we have so often been called upon to record. A few words must suffice.

The first meeting of the Society, which was convened to celebrate its successful organization, took place upon the delivery of Dr. Miller's discourse on the 4th of September 1809. The address of that distinguished and now sole surviving original member of our Society, with the exception of William Johnson, LL. D., embraced an important historical disquisition on the discovery of New York by Henry Hudson. At that celebration, which was in intellectual display second only to that assembled at the present festivity, were to be seen the venerable Egbert Benson, our first President, whose remarkable essay on Indian names deserved a better fate than it met with; Samuel and Edward Miller, the former still surviving in mental vigor, and known to both worlds for his "Brief Retrospect of the 18th Century:" the latter long since dead, but eminent in our medical annals as an elegant writer and medical historian: Dr. David Hosack, the great physician and teacher, who departed this life in 1835, an original member of the Society from its first meeting, for several years its President, and historically known as the faithful narrator of the Canal Policy of this State, and the biographer of Dewitt Clinton. Dr. Hugh Williamson, long since dead, the associate of Franklin and the Historian of North Carolina, a stern patriot in perilous times, and who comes forcibly to our memories by many peculiarities, and by his ample series of cocked hats, so well preserved and so strikingly calculated by their dis-

tinctive formations to mark the several periods of that manufacture during our revolutionary struggle. Nor were the men of a sacred order indifferent to our first efforts, or in any wise reluctant to aid by their counsel and talents. I will only mention the sedate and learned Bishop Moore of the Episcopal Church, and John M. Mason, the thunderbolt of pulpit oratory ; with Doctors John H. Livingston and John Rodgers, the venerable Pastors of the Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian Churches of this city : men who, equally by purity of life, decision of character, and the formidable dimensions of their respective Doddridge wigs, commanded the respect of the good, and challenged the homage of all.—You have lately adopted becoming resolutions concerning the late John Pintard : to him is fully due the merit of being the most prominent of all individuals in founding this Association, on which for many years he continued to bestow his personal labors and lavish his pecuniary means.

With your kind indulgence I will call to mind one other of our early associates, not long ago active among us, and whom many now present may remember for his unaffected simplicity and uniform urbanity, his various and extensive knowledge and his American feeling. Few among our original members were more in earnest to countenance this Institution than the learned Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill. Its objects he regarded of national importance, and with the same impulse which urged him to suggest to his countrymen a new name for the land of their birth, did his patriotism enjoin upon him, whether in the hall of legislation or in the retirement of the nursery, to inculcate the value of a distinctive appellation for the American Confederacy, and the numerous benefits which must follow from a thorough acquaintance, by the people, with the natural history and resources, the political and social institutions of the Empire State and of the American Union. You have not yet published the correspondence filed with your MSS. which occurred between Dr. Mitchill and the late Chancellor Livingston, touching the merits of his doctrine of Septon. You are aware that the Doctor maintained that the cause of pestilence was the influence which that invisible agent exercised on human beings. As his theory was an acid it was, of course, to be subdued by an alkali, and the facetious Chancellor tells the Doctor that he had earned in the cause of humanity, for the perpetuity of his own great renown, a monument of hard soap from the soap boilers. You have now a philosophical reason why the goodly

fathers of New York tolerate, with so much indifference, so many noxious operations in our city, and so many local sources of dis-temper among us, without ever exercising a deterersive influence for their mitigation: they are alkalescent, and by chemical laws, in due time, they neutralize the formidable Python: But genius will have its vagaries. If closet study led Dr. Mitchill to philosophize on the cis-Atlantic world as the older of the two, and to place the Garden of Eden in Onondaga Hollow, charity may tolerate this wondrous capability of his organ of credulity, and find a recompense in the consideration that he contended for the unity of the human species; that he cherished the Red Man of his country as a brother, and that a beneficent theology pervaded all his instruction, whether descanting on Niagara's Flood and the Oratory of Red Jacket, or unfolding the hidden mysteries of the Cryptogamia and the osteology of the Megalonyx. Dr. Mitchill deserves our lasting thanks for his numerous papers on Physical Science, and his Historical Discourse on the Botanical Writers of America. I think I knew him well by many years of collegiate toil with him in the same school of medicine: Mitchill was to the back-bone American.

I must reserve for another occasion a notice of the important part which the Hon. Gouverneur Morris and the late Dewitt Clinton took in advancing the interests of this Society; and I would make a like apology, the want of time, for not bringing vividly before you some notice of the acts in our behalf of the late Anthony Bleecker, and of Robert Fulton, of our still active and learned associate, the Hon. G. C. Verplanck, and of our American Blackstone, Chancellor Kent.

I need hardly add to these hasty reminiscences of my native New York, that the stewards of our early days, like the same invaluable officers of the present festival, were in no wise behind hand in making the most ample provision for the corporeal support and mental recreation of their enlightened guests. Then, as now, our tables largely displayed the bounties of a beneficent Providence; the sanative influence of our circulating medium was neither endangered by false acceptances, nor impaired by over-issues; while Hygiea at that time, like our honored guest the Mayor Harper at the present, discharged her wonted trusts in admonitory plenitude. Our patriotism was invigorated by "Hail Columbia" and "Yankee Doodle." But the advantage in this respect is vastly yours to-day. At that period in the divine art, we had little ac-

quaintance with Italian music : the monad which evolved Ole Bull had scarcely then assumed a formative process ; Rossini had not yet ravished the world ; the sublime strains of the Opera had not yet resounded on our shores ; and “ Lucy Long” and “ Old Dan Tucker” had not appeared among us.

But a moment longer. If a tolerable memory serves me, our Ganymede on the festive occasion which I have dwelt upon was old Christopher Colles. He was by birth an Irishman, and losing his parents when an infant, was brought up by the renowned Pocock, the Orientalist. He was disciplined in classic learning, and well versed in mathematical science. He emigrated to this country sometime before the close of the war of the revolution. Modest and unassuming in his character, and no special business presenting him an opportunity of profitable employment, he devoted what portion of his time he could to land-surveying, in different parts of this state and elsewhere. He published the first book of roads through the country about 1789, and lectured in different schools on mathematics and electricity. Were I to chronicle him in the progress of science in America, he should be specified as the first person who in this country gave public instruction on the fancies and the facts of magnetism. He was also the first individual who caught the idea of supplying the City of New York with pure spring water from a remote source, and the Bronx he conceived the best origin for that purpose. My old friend Charles King might have said more of him in his valuable memoir on the “ Aqueduct.”

Through life, Colles struggled with adverse forces, to the time of his death in 1821, at the advanced age of 84 years and upwards. John Pintard and myself had the honor to be his only mourners at the grave. He lies in the Episcopal Church-yard in Hudson street ; but no mark designates the spot. The poor old man rarely experienced the enjoyments of life, and was often without its smallest necessaries. For many years his telescope and microscope supported him by the casual pittance of a six cent piece for a look at Venus, or the circulation through the web of a frog’s foot. What a contrast in conditions of life was Colles in New York with his old master, the affluent Dolland of London, with whom he had worked at acromatic lenses. Yet his pressing necessities were often relieved by the bounty of John Pintard ; and I, in my way, *pro re nata*, administered him an occasional dose. When oppressed with inward sorrows he read Euler and Maclaurin, and summoned

his ideality in calculating the safest means to sustain a Bank Currency. Colles cherished the doctrine of signs, which he derived, I believe, from his acquaintance with Culpepper. He was wont to say that a disastrous star presided at his birth, and that if he had been brought up to the trade of a hatter, the people would have come into the world without heads. Thus much of Colles: and thus much was assuredly due to the memory of the man whose investigations more than half a century ago have ultimately led to the erection of that vast national undertaking, the Croton Water Works.

Let me, Gentlemen, in conclusion, give you a sentiment:

“THE STATE OF NEW YORK—Worthy of an Historical Society.”

Rev. Dr. DE WITT said that at the late hour of the evening, he would refer to only one spot connected with the history of the Country, and that should be *Plymouth Rock*. As the Children of Israel were refreshed by the water which flowed from the rock smitten by the rod of Moses, so had the people of this country their most cherished principles from the pilgrims of Plymouth. As one who traced his ancestry to Holland, he remembered with pride that the pilgrims first found a resting place from oppression in that land. He would give as a sentiment—

“THE PURITAN PILGRIMS OF THE 22D DECEMBER, 1620—The old Bay State of Massachusetts, and the worthy delegation of her Historical Society.”

Hon. W. W. CAMPBELL then rose and said:—

Mr. President—I have been requested to offer a sentiment having reference to the State of Georgia. The colony of Georgia was the last planted by Great Britain within the present limits of the United States, but though last she was not least in importance or in interest. Her founder, though little over thirty years of age at the time, was a member of the British Parliament, had distinguished himself in the Continental war of Europe, and was a scholar and a philanthropist. With him came John and Charles Wesley, whose names have become familiar to the great denomination of Christians to which they belonged and of which they were the founders. They planted the first settlement on the spot where now stands the city of Savannah. I offer the following sentiment:

“GENERAL JAMES OGLETHORPE—The founder of Georgia, youngest

child of the Colonial Enterprise of England. He was a Hero, a Statesman and a Philanthropist, and his name should be held in lasting and grateful remembrance."

JOHN JAY, Esq. in reply, said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen—Having been honored by a request from the Historical Society of Georgia to represent them on this occasion, I rise to respond to the honorable gentleman who has proposed to you the memory of Oglethorpe. Georgians may well be proud of their gallant and chivalric founder, and look back with interest to his landing on the Bluff of Yamacaw, near Savannah, bringing with him hardy peasantry from England, zealous Zaltsburghers from Nassau, sturdy Highlanders from Scotland, and brave emigrants from the Emerald Isle; and the history of the young colony, thus peopled by men mostly of that Protestant faith which, in the Reformation, established those principles of civil liberty that were re-affirmed and re-established in our Revolution, is characterized by many of those familiar passages of romance and daring, which make so frequently our colonial story. The invasion of Florida, under Oglethorpe, and the unsuccessful attack upon St. Augustine—the invasion of Georgia by a Spanish fleet from the Havana, and the defeat of two hundred of the enemy in the Bloody Swamp—the return of Oglethorpe, and the subsequent difficulties of the President and Council with the Indians—all these are blended with more peaceful and delightful memories of the ardor, zeal, and resistless eloquence of Whitfield—the holy labors and preachings of the two Wesleys, of whom the honorable gentleman has spoken—and the gentle benevolence and faithful friendship of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, whose name and features are still preserved in an orphan-house which she founded.

At the commencement of that contest for popular rights, which ended in the Revolution, Georgia exhibited a spirit akin to that of the sons of the Hollanders and the Pilgrims. She early delegated Franklin to solicit the affairs of the Province in England, and it was then that he so fearlessly vindicated the rights of his countrymen in the presence of the rulers of Great Britain. When the Boston Port Bill was passed the burst of indignation it excited in the North was answered by a responsive feeling at the South. A general meeting of the Georgia colony was held, and this and other

similar enactments of the British Parliament, were declared to be "contrary to natural justice and repugnant to the spirit of the English constitution"—a subscription was opened for the suffering Bostonians, and 600 tierces of rice were contributed in a few hours.

During the Revolution, the patriotism of the Georgians was severely tried. No State of the old Thirteen was scourged more cruelly, or left more defenceless; and their Historical Society have already shown by their labors that they know how to preserve in freshness, the memories of their fathers, and keep before the rising generation those pure examples which, like Oglethorpe, are kindly given by Heaven to shed the lustre of their virtues on our onward path, and lend their grateful influence in forming our national character.

In 1837, the State appointed Mr. Howard their Historical Agent in Europe, and his efforts have been crowned with the same success which has followed those of our distinguished guest and orator. Twenty-two large folio volumes were gathered in the various offices of England, and when these and the other early memorials of the colonies shall have been collected, it will be more clearly seen than ever, that though so young a land, our history has many features of calm and severe beauty, and that we could no where find nobler models for our children than among the first settlers on our shores and the peasant heroes of our Revolution.

I beg leave to offer you, Mr. President:—

"THE MOTTO OF GEORGIA—*NON SIBI SED ALIIS*—Descriptive of the character of our fathers, and of the labors of the historian. May it soon characterize also our national and State Legislation, and our domestic institutions."

REV. DR. BETHUNE of Philadelphia was called on, and made a very eloquent and effective speech, and concluded with offering as a toast:

"THE ORATOR OF THE EVENING—He has acquitted himself worthy of the office given him."*

Mr. Adams then left the hall. The company all rose as he passed out, and as he departed, three cheers were given with the greatest unanimity.

* There was no response to this toast, as Mr. Brodhead had previously retired.

JAMES W. GERARD, Esq. being called upon, remarked as follows:—

Mr. President—I am the *last* man—but one—I am part of the machinery of this Festival, to address you at this *late* hour of the *night*, or rather *early* hour in the *morning* and the duty assigned me is to give a sentiment complimentary to the mercantile interests of our country. What I have therefore to say, I assure you is the result of preparation, and not springing from the impulse of the moment.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, told you of the compliment he received in being selected to respond for his native State, and seemed to be very grateful for *any* compliment he or his State received. I must tell you of the left-handed compliment paid to me by the Committee, who said that by their rule I would be entitled to speak *ten* minutes, but that if I would only use *half* that time, they would be very much obliged to me.

I have selected for my theme, the *Origin of Nations*. The “*Origin of Nations*” in five minutes!!! but if mind can communicate with mind, with lightning speed, or rather *in no time*, from Washington to Baltimore, by the new telegraph, why cannot I in five minutes, circumnavigate the Globe? The reverend gentleman from Philadelphia, who just addressed you, pursued the dictates of his high and holy calling, when he preached to you of *peace and good will* to men, beautifully illustrated by the friendly greeting at your table, to which he adverted, of two distinguished public men, in the evening of their days, who had long been politically opposed. Every man to his business. *My* profession, on the other hand, is of an *antagonistic* character; it is the business of my life to ride the whirl-wind and direct the storm of human passion. In pursuance of *my* calling therefore, I throw down my gauntlet against the claim made so often to night of the benefits to be derived from *Historical Societies*, and contend that their utility is very doubtful; at all events to Nations in their infancy.

There is too much truth and matter of fact about such Societies, their Archives and their Recording Secretaries—every thing is reduced to the standard of reality, and they record the origin of nations, and the biography of their founders, with too unerring a pen. Well was it for the great nations of antiquity, that they had no Historical Societies to treasure up the sober realities of their beginnings. Many of the great kingdoms of olden time, sprung from

humble sources. Chance and accident have given birth to many nations, as well as to individuals. Many a nation whose origin is lost in fable, was founded by Patriots, who like some of modern days, "left their country for their country's good."

Whence sprung mighty Rome. The power, political and religious, that for five-and-twenty hundred years has controlled the bodies or the minds of men? From an adventurer, who had no *father*, and a *she-wolf* for a *mother*; but whether a wolf of four or two legs, I believe Historical Societies have not yet precisely determined. And how did he gather his millions, with whom he afterwards overrun the world? By planting his standard on the Palatine Hill, and calling on the renegades and outcasts of Italy, to whom he gave a refuge, to rally around it; so that I have no doubt, that at that day, the meaning of the expression, "*gone to Rome*" was as significant as that of the present day, "*gone to Texas.*"

Other nations took advantage of the absence of Historical Societies, by claiming an origin far more respectable than was the truth. The Egyptians claimed that they were descended directly from the Gods—the Greeks that they sprung full grown from the Earth. In fact you will find that where the founders of nations did not know who their fathers were on earth, they claimed to be descended from their deities in Heaven, as there was not then a Recording Secretary to drive them from high Olympus' seat.

Many nations owe their origin to *Commercial Colonization*. Three thousand years ago the Phœnician merchants, from the overflowing of their wealth and zealous enterprize, lined the shores of the Mediterranean, with Carthage and other noble cities which they founded. In those days when the Princes were merchants, their neighbor, Solomon, was not only the wisest man, and the most powerful King, but the most enterprising merchant of his day. Then Hiram, King of Tyre, and Solomon, King of Judah, joined their treasures and their fleets together, and projected their extensive commercial speculations, not merely on the coasts of the Great Water, at whose head their kingdoms were situated, but on the Red Sea and the Italian Gulf, even to the Indian Ocean—carrying on their commercial speculations under the old firm of *Hiram & Solomon*, and if there had then been an Historical Society to record the fact, I have no doubt they would have found that in some of their operations *Queen Sheba* was a *secret partner*.

When the adverse winds would not allow the vessels of Solomon to pass down the Red Sea, he formed his caravans to track the desert, for his commercial intercourse with the great Nations of the far East, and *Tadmor* of the Desert, which was his Caravansera or half-way house, where the merchants of the East and West could meet and make their traffic, became from commercial wealth, that splendid *Palmyra*, the wonder of the world, which soon threw the shafts of its noble columns, amid the branches of its lofty palm-trees, towering to the clouds.

We have all heard much of *Jason* and his brave Argonauts, in their noble ship *Argo*, sailing from Thessaly to Colchis in search of the Golden Fleece—fabulous history has thrown much of romance about Jason, his enchantress Medea, and his chivalrous enterprize; but if there had been then an Historical Society, what would have been the truth they would have been compelled to record! Merely a new opening of some enterprizing merchants of Thessaly, in the *wool trade*.

When in the fifteenth century the crescent of the Moslem supplanted the Cross on the Walls of Constantinople, and the Scimetar of the Turk drove out the men of learning and genius, to seek asylum in other countries, the merchants of Genoa, Venice and Florence, gave that protection to the banished literati of the Eastern Empire, which caused the revival of letters and the fine arts in Europe, and we find the Medici dispensing their Ducal power in Florence with one hand, and their merchandize with the other.

I need not recall to your recollection the power of the merchants and bankers of Europe at the present day—they hold the purse-strings, the modern sinews of war. When Rothschild speaks, then sounds the trump to battle; when Rothschild shakes his head, then ceases the cannon's roar, and all is hushed in peace.

In looking around upon the Merchants of our own country, we have much to be proud of—we find in them the patrons of all that is excellent in art, and of all the great institutions which adorn and give vigor to our country. It was a merchant of Philadelphia who maintained the sinking credit of our Government in one of its darkest hours of peril, and it was a merchant of our own city also who conceived and achieved the enterprise of settling the great North West Coast of our own boundless Continent.

I have thus sailed round the nations of the world, in nearly my five minutes. To conclude, I give as my sentiment:—

“THE MERCHANTS OF AMERICA—The *Modern Argonauts*, who have not only searched for, but found the *Golden Fleece*.”

JAMES DE PEYSTER OGDEN, Esq., President of the Chamber of Commerce, replied as follows:—

Mr. President—History is a science that treats of man in his commercial as well as his social and political relations, and History is indebted to commerce for too many of its most important and valuable contributions and acquisitions not to be willing, at all times, to acknowledge its obligations. The high rank, the extended sway, and the enduring power which commercial nations have obtained and enjoyed, both in ancient and modern times, are well known, and stand conspicuous on the page of History. Carthage, in her day, owed strength, and power, and influence to Commerce; and if Rome had patronised and protected it, its liberalizing influence might have preserved her liberties—at least have delayed her fall.

The celebrated Hanseatic League gave laws, in its day, to the commercial world, and caused the development and establishment of that commercial policy which has since been connected with all political relations and now forms the basis of most national treaties, and this commercial league maintained its permanent ascendancy for nearly 350 years. England depends upon Commerce for her political power and her naval supremacy.

The discovery of America effected an important change in commerce, politics and science, and since we have assumed a rank among nations, we too have been emphatically a commercial people. In 1670 the shipping of this great commercial port was 1500 tons. The United States are now the second commercial nation of the world. The first overt act of our Revolution was committed on board a ship, and performed in the service of Commerce.

It is often the privilege and prerogative of its liberalizing spirit to despoil the despot of power, and break the chains of the oppressed, for Commerce is ever found either to precede or accompany the march of rational freedom and of equal rights. Commerce thus becomes instrumental in giving rise to important events, and accordingly may be said to create important facts for history to record.

The Commerce of our country by extending itself over every sea, and opening an intercourse and making us acquainted with all

people, establishes that neighborhood among nations which enables History to visit and examine for herself, and the treasures of historical research are thus brought home to her very doors.

This Society, then, Mr. President, must indirectly share in our commercial prosperity, for commerce stimulates and rewards honest industry, and laudable enterprise, while its pursuits tend directly to encourage and develope those discoveries and improvements, in which this age is so prolific. It would indeed be a pleasing duty and an appropriate task, on this occasion, to sketch the history of the Commerce of New York, but that, Sir, would require the pen of an historian, and its history is yet to be written. I beg leave to propose—

“ **COMMERCE**—Without its aid, History would be rather ‘a sealed book’ than ‘a living letter.’”

From the invitation given to the Maryland Historical Society, the formation of which took place in the course of the preceding year, it was expected that a Delegation from this junior sister Association, would have been present at the Dinner. To the Foreign Corresponding Secretary (FREDERIC DE PEYSTER, Esq.,) was assigned the duty of welcoming the Delegation, and of introducing a sentiment in compliment to their patriotic State, by some remarks suggested by her Colonial annals, and characteristic of the liberal views and generous conduct of the earlier settlers on her soil; showing that the principles which actuated the Pilgrims who sought there a home under the sway of their wise and enlightened Proprietary, gave an impulse to the Colony, and were illustrated in the benignity of her laws and their impartial administration; that these principles in the abstract were well understood by their brother Pilgrims who disembarked at Plymouth; but, except in the case of Rhode Island—that small but gallant State—they were, in their practical operation, sadly at variance with that genuine spirit of liberty, which made “free indeed” the men of Maryland, in the exercise of political rights and the enjoyment of religious toleration. In reference to these interesting events, so deserving of just and merited commendation, and to the obligations resting on the sons to maintain inviolate the fair

fame of their fathers' land, Mr. De Peyster submitted the following toast:—

“ MARYLAND IN 1632 and 1649—Memorable years in her annals: the one, as the era of her chartered existence; the other, as the epoch of Religious Toleration, throughout her borders, by legislative enactment.

“ May the descendants of the enlightened men, who were foremost to proclaim ‘ Equal Rights,’ and firm in maintaining their just sway, never suffer a stain to rest on her glorious escutcheon !”

The lateness of the hour to which the proceedings extended, necessarily prevented the company from listening to a number of gentlemen who were expected to speak. The remarks which accompanied the following toast, by Mr. CHARLES F. HOFFMAN, have appeared in a city paper as forming part of the actual proceedings of the Dinner, and properly belong to this account.

“ NEW YORK—The Empire *Colony* of the old Thirteen Provinces. Her motto still “ EXCELSIOR.” May her Eagle in his proudest flight, never forget the gallant trials which first nerved his pinion.”

Notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, Mr. President, I claim your indulgence for a few words, in explanation of the sentiment I have just offered. Commenting sportively to the friend by my side, upon the ingenuous avoidance to-night of any allusion to those who entertained the planters of Plymouth rock for twelve years, in Old Amsterdam, or the historical associations of those who have to-day entertained their descendants for as many hours in New Amsterdam, it was suggested by a fellow-member that the proceedings of this celebration would wear rather an awkward aspect when given to the world. Our anniversary festival would seem to be held rather in commemoration of Massachusetts than of New York. Another gentleman opposite to me has also suggested that inasmuch as this Society has been, from time to time, liberally aided by the State Legislature, it were positively disrespectful to the people who are represented in that Legislature, if no special reference to their past history should be made, upon an occasion like the present.

The able discourses upon early New York, delivered before this Society more than a generation since, by Gouverneur Morris and

De Witt Clinton, and some fifteen years later by Chancellor Kent and Gulian C. Verplanck—names not yet wholly forgotten by the present population of New York—induced a hope, in the early part of the evening, that by some allusion, either to these productions or to the past history which those productions illustrate ; or, finally, to the names of those eminent New Yorkers themselves, the office which I have thus hastily undertaken would be measurably fulfilled.

The majority of the company, however, have, I presume, like myself, been so much interested in the eloquent commentaries upon the local annals of Massachusetts, and the ever-memorable excellence of *her* pilgrim fathers, that the hours have sped on in perfect forgetfulness of *our* forefathers. Sir, we have heard much to-night of “the pure Anglo-Saxon stock,” and of the men who first settled on the Eastern outer-casing of this continent. We have heard little of those who struck inwardly to its heart, and grappled at once with its strong vital pulsations at the head of its tide-waters. We have heard nothing, sir, since we left yonder church, of those bold Belgic navigators, whose flag led that of Britain on every sea ; those devoted Huguenots who sprang with such vigor from beneath the shadow of despotism, that they made but one bound from luxurious France to this then savage wilderness ; those brave English cavaliers, who, recoiling from Puritan intolerance with the same spirit as did the Huguenots from Papal bigotry, came hither with little but cloak and rapier, to carve out their fortunes amid the forests of New York. A trinity of good blood, that in producing god-like men would mate with the Anglo-Saxon the world over. But here, sir, I wish I could recall now the eloquent language of **Gouverneur Morris**, when he speaks of the fusion of these three races upon a soil which had already nurtured the noblest and most powerful race of Aborigines upon this continent—the Roman-like and far-conquering Iroquois ! That I could recall, too, his predictions of what those blended forces of best manhood must accomplish, in a region whose natural resources afford a field for all the most powerful energies of civilization ! He looked upon the Susquehanna connecting us with the Chesapeake ; upon the Genessee connecting us with the Gulf of St. Lawrence ; upon the Alleghany linking us with the sea of Mexico ; upon the great Lakes binding us to the boundless West ; upon the Hudson uniting us with the civilized world. He turned from the bloody school of our energies, in a

hundred and fifty years of border wars, and imagined those same indomitable powers applied to the arts of peace !

Sir, the curious speculative theory of that philosophic statesman is now History. Yes, sir, it has been History for more than twenty years. Sir, the men of New York were acting History while those in other States were writing it for us and our children. Am I extravagant ? It must be so, sir, or how else could our own brilliant early annals become overlaid, as they are, by the purely local, and to us comparatively foreign themes of the Plymouth Rock and the Pilgrim Fathers ! [A voice.] "We must look nearer home," some gentleman observes ; our gazetteers and school histories are certainly nearly all prepared by New Englanders ignorant of our annals, and unsympathizing in our story. Why, I saw a new octavo Gazetteer this very day, in which several pages are gravely quoted from Knickerbocker's New York, as veritable history. But I will "look nearer home," as the gentleman invites me. Sir, the successful mingling of those wondrous waters has raised such a wave as almost to wash from the memory of the present generation the deeds of colonial enterprise upon which Mr. Morris predicted his generous prophecy. We hear much of the "Empire State," we forget the "Empire Colony"—the province where the two most powerful nations of Europe so long contended for empire. We forget that with a population less than that of either Massachusetts or Virginia, here was the great seat of English executive and colonial power, in time of peace : and here, as Chancellor Kent has so happily termed it, "the Flanders of North America," in time of war. Mr. President, the old military glory of New York should not be thus forgotten ! Surely, the martial spirit of our fathers has cost enough in years gone by ! That martial spirit which, leaving so few non-combatants, made the Revolution within our borders truly a civil war : that spirit of action which compelled every New Yorker to take up arms for king and colony ; which furnished regiment after regiment to the Crown, and treble the number to the Confederacy ; which blazed forth with all its desperate energies, in the death-grapple of brothers at Oriskany, and which is traceable in the gallantry of New York's exiled sons down to the field of Waterloo ! Surely that military spirit of the storied past should not be forgotten, while we enjoy its best fruits in the prosperous present.

"The battle-field of America !" Why, sir, the border conflicts

with naked savages of all the States put together, would not fill up the military page of our history, even previous to—[*A voice*, “the Revolution.”]—not the Revolution—no, sir, nor what is called “the old French War,”—but previous to the year of grace, 1700 !

Is it too late ? or will gentlemen yet bear with me for a few moments, in a rapid enumeration of a few solid facts ? I will go on. We have heard much to-night of what our Eastern neighbors have *endured* for the promotion of *doctrine*—it may be healthful to hear what our fathers *did* for the protection of *home*.

You have heard from our Orator, before we came to the table, that the Dutch Hollanders penetrated to Albany, in 1609, the same year that the French, under La Roche, reached Lake George. You are aware, too, that both France and Holland laid a claim to the intermediate country predicated upon these several discoveries. It may be necessary to remind you, though, that to enforce their claim the French soon commenced supplying the Hurons, and other Canadian Indians, with fire-arms—while the Dutch were equally on the alert to furnish the Iroquois* with European weapons to repel them. For nearly thirty years the French were more or less successful, in making inroads upon this Province ; but in 1650 the Iroquois beat them back to Montreal, stormed the garrison of Trois Rivieres, and carried off the commandant prisoner. Those victors were “Natives” of New York. Yes ! in thirty years her strong soil had already produced a crop of men from the aboriginal stock, capable of contending with veterans who had fought under the greatest captains of modern Europe. But I must not delay with comments upon the hurried enumeration which may yet try your patience. In 1666, De Tracy, De Chaumont, and De Courcelles, with twelve hundred French soldiers, two pieces of cannon, and a thousand Indians and camp followers, descended upon the Mohawk and carried off many Iroquois prisoners, which were afterwards sent to the galleys in France. The northern and western barrier of the Province seemed giving way, and its ultimate subjection to the arms of France seemed inevitable, when in 1685 M. de la Barre descended with a force of seventeen hundred men upon Sackett’s Harbor—yet three years afterwards, in 1688, we again find twelve hundred New York Indians under the walls of Montreal. “I give

* Called also “Mingoes” and “Five Nations.”

you four days to decide," said their leader to the French commandant, "I give you four days to decide, whether you accept the terms of peace offered you by New York, or be driven into the sea. They did accept them !

In 1690 we find the French again within fifteen miles of Albany ; they succeeded in burning Schenectady—but a few months afterwards those red New Yorkers are again upon the island of Montreal, and though repulsed, they left their traces in blood and ashes, cut off one of the outposts, killed the commandant, and carried off several officers.

In 1691 the adventurous Frenchmen again penetrated to the Mohawk, and again in the same year the Iroquois have driven them from our borders, on Champlain and Ontario.

"The only way to conquer the Iroquois," said M. De Nonville to Louis XIV., "is by the previous conquest of New York."

"The only way to save New York," said Leisler, the people's Governor, "is by the previous conquest of Canada."

In 1692, a fleet was commissioned by the Court of France to reduce the City of New York, and get the mastery of the Hudson ; and an army transported from France to strike at Albany, by the way of Canada ; but while these forces are crossing the Atlantic, the New York Indians have again driven the French within the defences of Montreal.

In 1693 the French are repulsed from Schenectady by Peter Schuyler, at the head of two hundred and ninety white, and two hundred and fifty red, New Yorkers.

In 1695 we find a command of three hundred French soldiers obtaining an advantage over the New York confederates at Oswego, while five hundred, who made their descent by the way of Lake Champlain, are beaten back with loss.

In 1696, one of the best appointed armies that ever displayed upon this continent, landed at Oswego, under the command of the veteran general Count de Frontenac. Cannon, mortars, grenades, four heavy battalions of musqueteers, with a commissariat amply provided,—an army led on by an array of Counts, Barons, Chevaliers, and private gentlemen volunteers, each with his following of servants and camp equipage, penetrated in their batteaux, from Oswego into Lake Onondaga, on whose banks they built a fort, and then proceeded to ravage the country. So active was the Baron de Beckancourt, the Chevalier de Grais, de Mesnil, and other

French nobles, all bent upon distinguishing themselves in this wild and, as they thought, romantic warfare, that all that portion of New York cultivated by our demi civilized tribes, was reduced to desolation by their ravages. A fearful famine succeeded: yet again and again is the red arm of the Iroquois felt in Canada, till the peace of Ryswick brought a breathing spell to both colonies.

In 1710 the Province of New York is again converted into an armed camp. The troops of Connecticut and New Jersey being mustered at Wood Creek with her own, to prevent the French from breaking through to the Atlantic, by way of the Hudson.

In 1711, four thousand provincials, with six hundred Iroquois, mustered at Albany, while the old border struggles are renewed till the peace of Utrecht, in 1713.

In 1727 the Province is again in arms, under Governor Burnet, marching upon the French, at Niagara.

In 1746 Saratoga is surprised by the French and Hurons, and thirty families are cut off in a night,—while in the same year the New York confederates carry off a whole garrison, from within ten leagues of Montreal; and thus the frontier war continued to rage till the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle brought a temporary peace to the Province.

1755 brings us to the battle of Lake George, where Sir William Johnson won his spurs, and where eight hundred of the invaders, under Dieskau, were left dead upon the field.

The assault of the Marquis of Montcalm, on Fort Ontario, with four thousand troops, follows; and the massacre of Fort William Henry, at Lake George, with the devastation of German Flats, on the Mohawk, by the invaders, brings us to (1758) the duplicate battle of Lake George, when seventeen thousand men under Abercrombie, were defeated by the French; the reduction of Fort Frontinac, on Lake Ontario, by three thousand provincials; the fight with the galleys, on Lake Champlain, and the different affairs of Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

In 1776, the empire Colony, where European competitors have so long contended for the majesty of this northern continent, became herself—the aspirant for Empire. Need I enumerate our storied fields of the Revolution? To set them justly before you—to trace the spirit that animated many of them, I should begin with the popular movements for liberty in New York, long years preceding the Declaration of Independence! But I must not dilate

upon the incidental branches of my theme. It is the military story, too,—not the political, annals of New York, that I am attempting thus hastily to illustrate. Within the seven years of the Revolution, the Battle of Long Island, the Battle of White Plains, the Storming of Stoney Point, the affair of Fort Montgomery, the Burning of Kingston, the sanguinary struggles of Cherry Valley and the Mohawk, with Oriskany, the bloodiest field of all our Revolutionary conflicts, and Saratoga, the most glorious, crowd in with Niagara, Saratoga, and Crown Point, to mark their names yet again upon the blazing tablet of our military annals.

1814—And yet again, the events at Erie and Sackett's Harbor, at Champlain and Niagara, come in to swell the record of deeds of arms, and approve New York the Battle field of the Union, the Flanders of American history.

Sir, I am grateful for the patience with which, at this late hour, I have been listened to by the company, but I make no apology for thus detaining them. It is good to remember—it is good for *people* as well as for individuals, to remember who they are, what they are, and how they came thus. There is no one to speak for us ; it is time we should speak for ourselves. Our neighbors have been writing history while we have been acting it. I respect, I reverence, sir, the zeal with which they preserve their own annals, but it is full time we should see that they so write them as not to overlay and obliterate ours. Their generalizations about “the pure Anglo-Saxon race” have already become naturalized here ; the specific phrase of “*our Pilgrim Fathers*” is rapidly following ; sir, the history of this State is no history of “the Puritan Anglo-Saxon,” and save as the descendants of those earnest-souled, vigorous-minded men who fought side by side with us, in the Revolution, our provincial annals are no more to be merged in those of Massachusetts than they are in those of Virginia. The bird that bears “Excelsior” in his beak was fledged on his own soil. He never began his soarings from Plymouth Rock. He dressed his plumage in our own lakes, and his pinions were nerved in the air of our own mountains.

GEORGE GIBBS, Esq. then proposed the parting toast :

“ OUR GUESTS AND OUR NEXT HAPPY MEETING.”

This was received with great cordiality, and at half-past 1 o'clock the company separated.

The Committee of Arrangements regret their inability to present a more full Report of the Speeches delivered on the occasion. They have been obliged to rely principally upon notes taken at the time, which are frequently and necessarily imperfect. Of the interesting and instructive remarks made by Dr. BETHUNE, no report was preserved, and the reverend speaker has not been able to comply with the request of the Committee to supply the deficiency.

NOTE.—The Rev. Dr. YOUNG of Boston, one of the Delegation from Massachusetts, thus happily introduced at the Festival of the Old Colony Club of Massachusetts, held at Boston on the 21st December, 1844, the remarks which he intended to have made on this occasion :

I was sorry, sir, to find at the late glorious celebration of the New York Historical Society, that the distinction between the colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts was quite overlooked ; and the more so as it deprived me of the opportunity of making some remarks in reference to the early ties which bound together the colonies of Plymouth and New Netherlands. I intended to tell our New York friends at that time that the descendants of the Pilgrims had not forgotten, and never could forget the hospitable reception and friendly entertainment which our forefathers received during their twelve years pilgrimage in the land of *their* Dutch ancestors. The name of Holland is dear to our hearts as well as to theirs. She gave our exiled fathers an asylum, and a church to worship in ; and in her precious soil repose the ashes of the sainted Robinson, and of many of his humble and pious flock. The graves of the early Pilgrims are to be sought, not on the burial hill of Plymouth, but in Amsterdam and Leyden. We have a “God’s Acre” there, planted with the seeds of resurrection.

Nor have we forgotten that when the Pilgrims first meditated removing from Holland to this outside of the world, the Dutch made them large offers to go under their protection to Hudson’s river, and would have transported them free of expense, and supplied every family with cattle, and provisions and clothing. We remember, too, that when the Pilgrims sailed from Delft Haven, there were several of the Dutch people, who understood English and had attended Robinson’s church, that embarked with them on the perilous voyage.

And in regard to that voyage, sir, I have long since exposed, and would here again, in the name of the Old Colony, utterly repudiate, as a calumny, the charge, which has been repeated and believed for a hundred and seventy years and more, that the Dutch bribed the master of the Mayflower to carry his passengers farther to the north than they meant to go, and land them on some other point of this uninhabited coast. I admit, there can be no doubt that the Pilgrims originally intended to settle somewhere in the neighborhood of Hudson’s river, it may be on the very island on which the magnificent city of New York is built. But it was not to the treachery of the captain of the Mayflower,—it was the elements—

nay, it was the providence of God, that led them within the shoals of Cape Cod, and caused them to settle down on the rugged and barren shores of New England. And it was a very fortunate thing for the Knickerbockers that our fathers did so. For those Pilgrim Fathers, it is well known, were indomitable squatters. Where they once planted themselves, they were sure to remain. And had they once got a footing on the island of Manhattan, the inevitable consequence would have been, that instead of glorying, as many of the New Yorkers now justly do, in the Dutch blood that flows in their veins, every mother's son of them would have been a genuine, unsophisticated Yankee.

Mr. President, it is grateful to recollect that the good understanding which subsisted for twelve years between the Leyden Pilgrims and the Dutch in Holland, was revived and continued after they had each planted a colony on these shores. We know that there was the most friendly intercourse between the colonists, and we fortunately have a part of the correspondence which passed between them, and also an account of the friendly visits which they mutually made to each other, all which manifests the amicable disposition that prevailed on both sides.

Allow me, in conclusion, Mr. President, in reference to these historical facts, to propose the following sentiment:—

“ HOLLAND—The refuge of civil and religious liberty in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—the nursery of the brave men who planted the first colonies in New York and New England. May the good understanding and kind feelings which subsisted between the fathers be maintained and perpetuated by their children.”

The following list comprises the names of the delegates from the several Societies represented on this occasion, viz:

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,	Rev. JOHN CODMAN, D. D.]
“ LEVERETT SALTONSTALL,	“ GEORGE E. ELLIS,
Rev. ALEXANDER YOUNG.	

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SAM'L M. BURNSIDE, Esq.,	STEPHEN SALISBURY, Esq.,
Hon. REJOICE NEWTON,	Hon. BENJ. F. THOMAS,
SAMUEL F. HAVEN, Esq.	

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Hon. THOMAS DAY,	ISAAC W. STUART, Esq.,
Rev. Dr. ROBBINS,	PHILIP RIPLEY, Esq.,
HENRY BARNARD, Esq.,	ERASTUS SMITH, Esq.,
Rev. C. W. BRADLEY,	CHARLES H. OLMFSTED, Esq.



